WINTER 2000 ISSUE No. 83

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Journal of the International Map Collectors' Society

WINTER 2000 ISSUE No. 83

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Cover map: Allain Manesson Mallet: 'Isle d'Islande', Paris, 1683.
Courtesy Graham Franks

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From the International Chairman's Desk

Our 19th International Symposium is over, and it was much enjoyed by all those who attended. Iceland is not somewhere one drops into casually, and for many of us it was a first visit. I think there may well be a few of us returning, as there is still so much we did not have opportunity to see, in addition to the maps. Though there is now a tarmac road all around the island, I didn't hear of any member brave enough, or with enough time, to attempt it.

IMCoS was honoured by being addressed by the President of our host country, a first for us. Our organisers next year have been given due warning that we expect nothing less at all our future meetings!

We extend our thanks to all the team, many from the National & University Library, who made this such a pleasant event.

One morning before the lectures started we held a meeting of the eleven International Representatives attending the symposium. Among the suggestions put forward was the need to link up through our web site to more map societies around the world. This would not only provide the latest information about IMCoS to those already interested in maps, but might bring information about IMCoS to people who are merely browsing, and come upon us by chance.

Another good idea was to ensure that International Representatives always have available copies of our registration form, to hand out to anyone expressing an interest in maps. A new one is currently being printed, and copies will be sent out accordingly, either with the Winter Journal, or separately.

There were also invitations from several representatives to host our international meetings: in Guatemala, Philippines, Australia/New Zealand, and Greece; and suggestions that Switzerland and Alaska would be cartographically interesting. We are committed until 2005, and will keep members informed of later venues and dates.

We have several new International Representatives now. From Turkey Muhtar Katircioglu suggested that he should hand over to a younger member, and recommended Ali Turan. Ali is 48 years old and lives in Ankara, a civil engineer by profession. He has been interested in maps since childhood, 'collecting just about anything I could get hold of.' His interest in antique maps started some years ago, and he collects 16–18th century maps of Asia Minor and the Turkish Empire.

Jens Bornholt suggested that he replace Paul Glynn in Central America. I have not heard from Paul lately, but his last journal was returned, undeliverable, so perhaps he is no longer interested in maps. Jens also lives in Guatemala, but has a mailing address in Florida (see the members' list if you want to contact him). His Guatemala address is given in the list of representatives.

From Russia Andrey Kusakin contacted us. He has a collection of Russian maps and organised in spring 1999 an exhibition in the Pushkin Art Museum in Moscow of maps from Tsar Mikhail Federovich to Catherine the Great. A couple of months later he jointly organised an exhibition of Geological Maps of Russia. Both catalogues were in Russian only. This year he showed his maps in two more exhibitions in Moscow. Currently an exhibition of about 50 of his maps is on show at the New Jerusalem Art Museum (Moscow) with the title 'Journey to Moscovia'.

We are looking for a new representa-

tive in Portugal as JC Silva has not been active there for some time. We have also lost our representative in Bulgaria, as the journals sent to Bojan Besevliev were returned undelivered. Any suggestions for representation in these two countries (or any others where we do not have anyone) will be most welcome.

In the last month our plans to streamline the financial administration of the Society have come to fruition. Brian Weston has started work as financial Administrator, handling the banking of payments, converting the book-keeping from a manual to a computerised system and processing credit card payments on-line at last. The IMCoS Financial Secretariat will in future be the first port of call for current members making payments to the Society for subscriptions, advertising, the map fair and other events. The reminders to members whose subscriptions lapse at the end of 2000 will have his address for renewals. Once again we request that you pay for three or ten years in order to keep our costs to the minimum. Brian will typically be working half a day each week (currently Fridays) in Waddesdon close to Valerie Scott. He may be contacted at:

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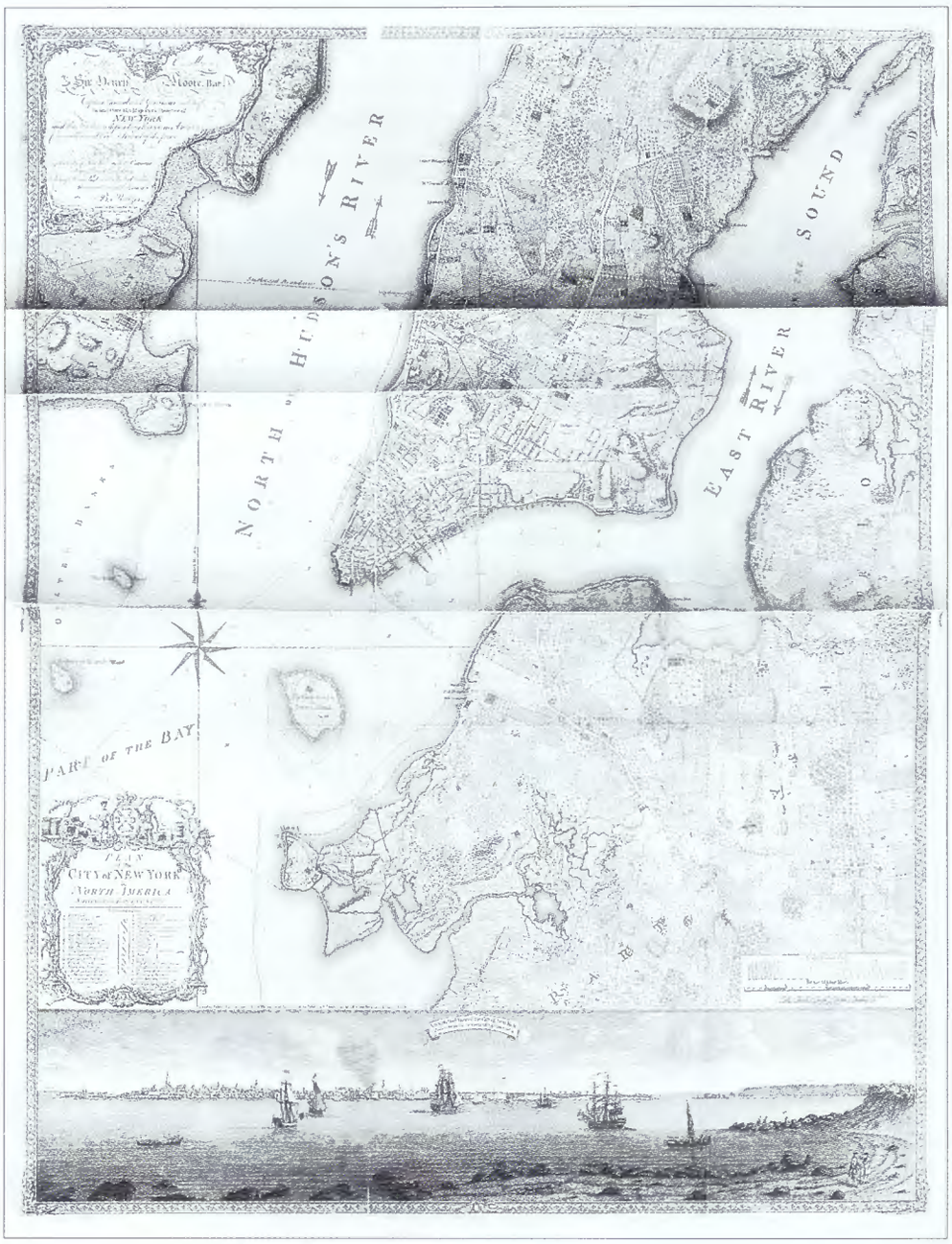
To turn now to my role as Editor of the *IMCoS Journal*. Thanks to some of our members I now have a few items actually waiting for publication; only a couple of years ago I used to empty the drawer every issue. However, there are many members out there who have not sent me anything to publish so far. I frequently maintain that if a subject—a map, a country, a cartographer, an anomaly, a curiosity, anything to do with maps—is interesting to even one of our members, it is bound to fascinate others too. We have so many members in USA, but very rarely has any item on maps of the Americas appeared in recent issues. Perhaps our meeting in Chicago and Milwaukee next October will stimulate some writing. Even maps of European countries have not received the attention due to them from our members. I am most grateful to the few members who do regularly send me material, but I am sure that there are very many more who have something interesting they might share with others. Don't deluge me, please, the number of pages has a certain limitation, but it would be good to include a wider variety, and to know that more members are willing to share their knowledge.

Writing for our journal does not require academic expertise, only enthusiasm. If a member who claims not to be an expert ventures to send in something they have come across and found interesting, they can only learn more if another member is inspired to write a follow-on article or a letter pointing out further details.

A further request: our membership secretary would like to receive information about any change of address, addition of e-mail, etc, etc., on a regular basis. Throughout the world there seem to be frequent changes to telephone codes and numbers. In UK many exchanges have changed in the last three years. So do please keep us informed of any changes. They will, of course, be shown in the next Members' Directory, but in the meantime it is helpful if our Membership Secretary is up-to-date on how we can contact you if necessary. A form will be sent with the Spring Journal, but before then, do send her any corrections, and return the form when it reaches you.

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19th International Symposium: Iceland 2000

Address by The President of Iceland
Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson

at the opening of the exhibition 'Maps of Iceland'
at the National University Library of Iceland
16 September 2000

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We Icelanders have for a long time cultivated an identity derived from the ancient sagas, literature and poetry, and with the campaign for independence and sovereignty this heritage became central to the way we presented ourselves as a newly independent nation.

It was not until recent decades that we began to take a deeper interest in examining and studying the impression which other people had of our country, how our island in the far north was portrayed in words and images, how the world of knowledge and interpretation which focused on the making of maps saw this strange land of ice and fire.

Indeed, in the maps made of Iceland in centuries past we have discovered a unique treasure which has gradually come to occupy a special position in the new perspectives we have now acquired towards our country and history.

The shape of the land, knowledge of topography, landscapes, the interplay of natural wonders and mystery, the magical world of animals and fantastic creatures, mountains and fjords, what was mentioned and what omitted, priorities and focuses – all these provide us with invaluable information about how extensive knowledge about Iceland was in other countries, in particular during the centuries which were overshadowed



by suffering and hardship and have not yet been shown the scholarly interest they merit.

At the opening of these informative and entertaining exhibitions I would like to pay tribute to the Icelandic pioneers who made the collection and analysis of ancient maps into a respected branch of Icelandic cultural studies.

I remember how, when I was a student collecting material for my doctorate at the old National Library, I often used to watch the late Haraldur Sigurðsson at work on his history of Icelandic maps, a masterpiece which will remain one of the central works of Icelandic cultural studies for the foreseeable future.

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China – Morden, 1680, 13 x 11 cms; first edition in outline colour; from Geography Rectified. £80

New Guinea & Gulf of Carpentaria – Mallet, 1683, 10 x 14 cms; in outline colour. £75

New South Wales – Wilkinson, 1808, 22 x 29 cms; from Tasmania to the Gulf of Carpentaria and New Zealand; insets of Lord Howe's Island, Norfolk Island & Port Jackson with Botany Bay. £85

East & Central Africa – Bertius, 1618, 13 x 10 cms; coloured; from the Hondius version. £65

America – Williams, 1841, 23 x 28 cms; the whole continent; shows Texas as an independent state. £90

He would sit through the dark winter with the light from his lamp on the centre table in that elegant reading room illuminating the world of wonders that those maps portrayed, and we young students, although engaged in different fields of study, had the honour of enjoying his stories and sharp insights.

Haraldur Sigurðsson would have been delighted to join us at the international symposium here today and we pay tribute to his memory and that of other pioneers of Icelandic cartography with deep respect and gratitude.

Many people have been involved in collecting of maps in more recent times, and the whole Icelandic nation certainly benefited when the National University Library acquired Kjartan Gunnarsson's unique collection and, together with other fine maps, was able to show this remarkable aspect of our national history the honour it deserves. Hopefully the Library will in the future have the resources to devote even more effort towards this important element in the preservation of our nation's historical relics.

On the occasion of this international cartographical symposium I have the honour of opening two exhibitions here today, one dedicated to ancient maps of Iceland and the other to the unique work of cartographer Samúel Eggertsson, who during the first decades of the twentieth century gave us a new vision of Icelandic history. He presented the settlement and sea voyages, the links between the ancient commonwealth and local communities, in a new guise by creating distinctive maps to portray the great historical events that our forebears, the literary geniuses who wrote the sagas and other works, had laboured to recount in many volumes of complex narratives written down on calfskin.

Samúel Eggertsson neatly summed up his own mission when he described



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how one of his best maps came into being: 'The names, families, origins, places of residence, achievements and descendants of most of the settlers are largely traced in the unique Book of Settlements and many other unparalleled accounts. I consider it the sacred duty of all Icelanders to acquaint themselves as closely as possible with these writings, which are the foundation of our entire history. Since no teacher can avoid explaining our history as closely as possible, I am taking the liberty of recording this account if it might serve to encourage and guide others in this notable field of study. The main factor that sustained Iceland and its progress during the Age of the Commonwealth was the sea voyages made by our forebears. By travelling abroad they acquired wealth and fame and when they returned home they used their influence to enrich their nation with diverse culture and independence. Schools and literature, writing, sports, poetry, trade and many kinds of agricultural developments sprang to life, flourished and were sustained for as long as we retained our independence, then gradually dwindled and died out by the end of the 14th century. The map on the title page shows Iceland's geographical position and the red lines from it show the routes travelled by Icelanders during the Age of the Commonwealth and into the Middle Ages. The routes taken by Eirik the Red to Greenland and Leif the Lucky to Vínland the Good, as well as the journeys made to the south by Icelandic bishops and other important personages through the known world at that time, all the way to Rome and Jerusalem.'

This text by Samúel Eggertsson clearly shows how the identity which for centuries served as encouragement to the nation, and as I mentioned earlier would become central to the campaign for national independence in the 19th century, inspired the great cartographer in the first half of the twentieth century to create the unique works we see here today.

In his day Samúel Eggertsson earned the praise and support of other scholars



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who were also pioneers in their fields, in particular the natural scientists Þorvaldur Thoroddsen and Bjarni Sæmundsson. He also made land surveys and plans of towns, villages and many natural relics, compiled a history of Iceland containing chronicles, graphs and maps, made a landscape map of the entire country and was engaged in other works for advancing the study of Icelandic culture, all aimed at promoting understanding of the wider context of Iceland's history.

It is a particular delight to have the chance to see Samúel Eggertsson's works here today and admire how well they fit in with the maps of Iceland from former times.

I would like to welcome our distinguished visitors from abroad to this symposium on cartography and hope that you will have enjoyable discussions and an interesting stay.

88888

Welcome Address by Einar Sigurdsson Director of the National & University Library

Honored members of IMCoS and other guests!

I would like to welcome you all to the nineteenth IMCoS International Symposium, which is now being held for the very first time in Iceland. My colleagues and I thought it a very daring suggestion when your President, Mr Oswald Dreyer-Eimbcke, first mentioned the idea of holding the IMCoS International Symposium here in this country. He was then visiting Iceland with a group of cartography enthusiasts in 1995, the year after we had moved into this new building.

Unfortunately Oswald is not with us at this symposium because of illness, but I would like to send him my best regards wishing him a quick recovery.

I'm afraid I have to confess that, at the time Oswald was here, I hardly knew of the existence of IMCoS, but I quickly found out that the organisation had at least one member here in Iceland. We decided to take up the challenge, and that the symposium would go ahead

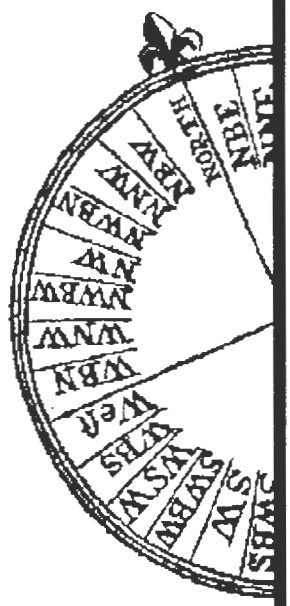


here in Iceland in the eventful millennium year of 2000.

It is a very happy coincidence that more has happened in the last five years in cartographic matters here in this library than in all the library's previous history. The library's map holdings have increased by at least a third and all our older maps are now accessible on the Internet, indeed maps were the very first library holdings to be digitized.

The proposed IMCoS symposium was



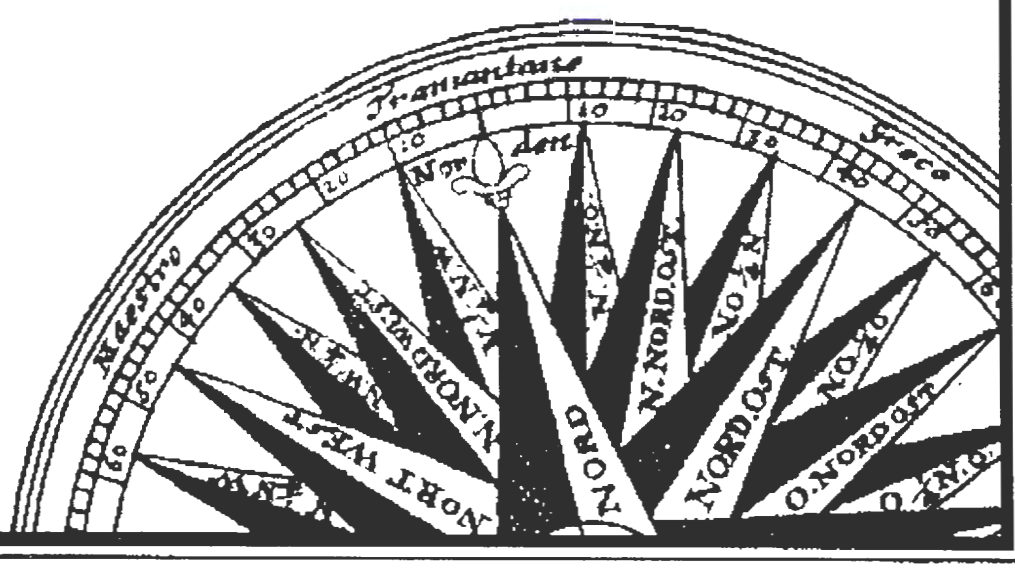


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a great inspiration for us, but we are also inspired by history, the history of Icelandic cartography, which Mr. Haraldur Sigurðsson has so thoroughly traced in his two-volume work, *Kortasaga Íslands*, which I am sure many of you are familiar with. The book also relates the story of the first Icelandic cartographer, Guðbrandur Þorláksson, the Bishop of Hólar. We have a special reason for mentioning him at the opening of the first IMCoS symposium to be held in Iceland, for Bishop Guðbrandur was skilled in astrology and land surveying and was the first person to establish the longitude and latitude of the bishopric in Hólar in Hjaltadalur Valley in northern Iceland. Moreover his map of Iceland appeared in 1595 in the fourth edition of Ortelius's magnum opus *Theatrum orbis terrarum*, and has been reprinted many times since. This map is far superior to all previous attempts.

Guðbrandur Þorláksson was bishop for more than half a century, and was an influential spiritual and religious leader, an influence not the least gained from his printing press and his voluminous publishing activities. Indeed it could be said he was an entire institute in himself in these matters, and has hardly been bested in this field until the present day. Bishop Guðbrandur's successes were crowned by his edition of The Bible, the printing of such a huge volume being an astonishing achievement.

But before the Bible and other theological writings could be published, Bishop Guðbrandur had to first have them translated into Icelandic. This in itself was also a great achievement, and has often been considered as being instrumental in the Icelanders' preservation of their ancient tongue, the language of the sagas, which Icelanders still study and cherish to this day.

For some years now, one day a year, the 16th of November, has been dedicated to the Icelandic language. The library has always specially commemorated this day, and so it is that, on the Day of the Icelandic Language, the 16th of November this year, we open an exhibition which traces the development of Bible publications here in Iceland and illuminates the value of gospel translations in the preservation of the Icelandic language, and not least the role played by Bishop Guðbrandur Þorláksson in this process.

Dear guests, in my opening words I mentioned that it had been a daring decision to agree to hold one of the IMCoS symposiums here in Iceland. I even asked myself whether we had the manpower capable of preparing such an event. But indeed we do, and with the help of several map enthusiasts we succeeded in setting up an organising committee under one of our librarians, Emilía Sigmarsdóttir. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all its hard and selfless work and the splendid job it has done. I would also like to thank the IMCoS international chairman, Mrs. Susan Gole, with whom we have been in constant touch. She also made a special trip to Iceland last year to become acquainted with the symposium's setting. All her valuable assistance has proved of immense benefit to us, and for this I sincerely express our gratitude.

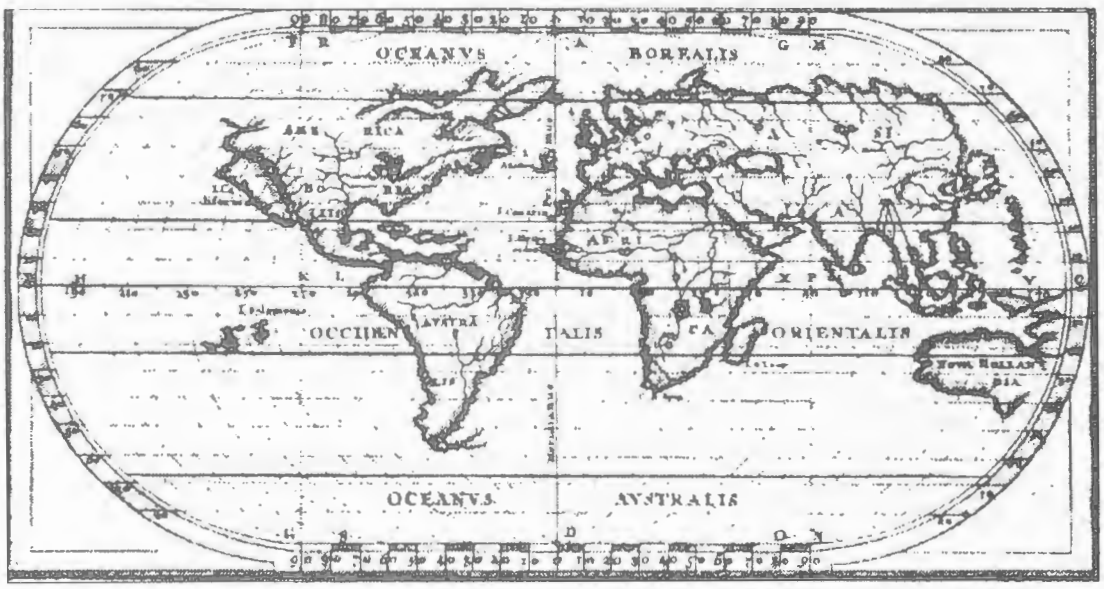
I also thank Reykjavík – European City of Culture for their financial support.

Finally, I would like to wish us all an interesting and informative symposium, and our guests from abroad an enjoyable stay in Iceland.

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Maps of Iceland on the Internet



The Internet has now become an international phenomenon. In the very near future every household in the western world will probably have a connection to the Internet through their computers, televisions, mobile phones or in some other way. Entire texts of books, periodicals and other collections can now be digitized and made available through the Internet.

The National and University Library of Iceland received a grant from the Nordic Council for Scientific Information (NORDINFO) when it opened in a new building in December 1994 and decided to use the money to make digital copies of all old maps of Iceland, in its possession, and put them on the Internet. The main reason why maps were selected had to do with conservation. Maps can be hard to handle, they are often large and can be sensitive to external influences. Things like air, heat and moisture, light, vermin, acid, mold and fungi can cause maps to deteriorate. Not to mention people, the user can cause extensive damage to maps by careless treatment.

The National and University Library of Iceland wanted to prevent its maps from being damaged by too much handling by putting them in permanent storage and using the originals as little as possible. Detailed cataloging of them can never replace the maps themselves. When the user is looking for a map or maps with particular characteristics he would probably want to browse through the maps rather than descriptions in catalogues. Therefore the best preservation policy is probably to make digital copies of the maps and allow the user access to them instead of the originals. That will make the maps more accessible and make it easier for researchers to study the map collection.

Another reason why maps were selected for digitization was because compared to books and periodicals they are limited in number. Maps have been part of the collection of the National Library since it was established in 1818. In the library's first catalog from 1828 we have a list of maps, tables and etchings that were in its collection. Although the maps have probably not been many their existence suggests that maps have been



Fernando Bertelli : De Islanda Insula, 1566.

collected just as books. Most of the old maps of Iceland that the library has got through the years have probably been gifts or part of gifts. Some of the maps have been bought. The map collection of the library increased to a great extent when it received as a gift from the banks and municipal authorities in Iceland the collection of the Reykjavik pharmacist Kjartan Gunnarsson, the former national representative of IMCoS in Iceland.

All of the old maps of Iceland that are in the collection of the National and University Library of Iceland have now been converted to digital format and are accessible through the Internet all around the world. All you need is a computer and a connection to the Internet. A short historical description in Icelandic and English is available for every map. The description contains for example information about the cartographer and the maps' relationship to other maps. The descriptions are based on the book *The Cartography of Iceland*, a two-volume detailed history of Icelandic cartography from earliest times to mid-nineteenth century by Haraldur Sigurðsson. Sigurðsson was a historian of cartography and a librarian at the National Library of Iceland for more than thirty years. Sigurðsson and his wife donated a large collection of books on maps and mapmakers, about 600 volumes, to the National and University Library of Iceland in 1994.

The user can access the maps mainly in two ways: the first one is through a list where the maps have been categorized according to age and origin. The maps are displayed in a table with information about author, title, where published, publishing year and map size. This gives an overview of the maps and all entries in the table have a link to the map itself and can be selected for display. The second way to access the maps is through search. It is possible to search the historical descriptions for certain criterias.

Now the library is working on a similar project called SAGANET. The goal is to convert about 500,000 pages of manuscripts and printed books to digital form (images) and provide access to them through the Internet. The chosen material will consist of Icelandic Sagas and related poetry that is kept in The National Library, The Árni Magnússon Institute in Iceland and in the Fiske Collection at Cornell University.

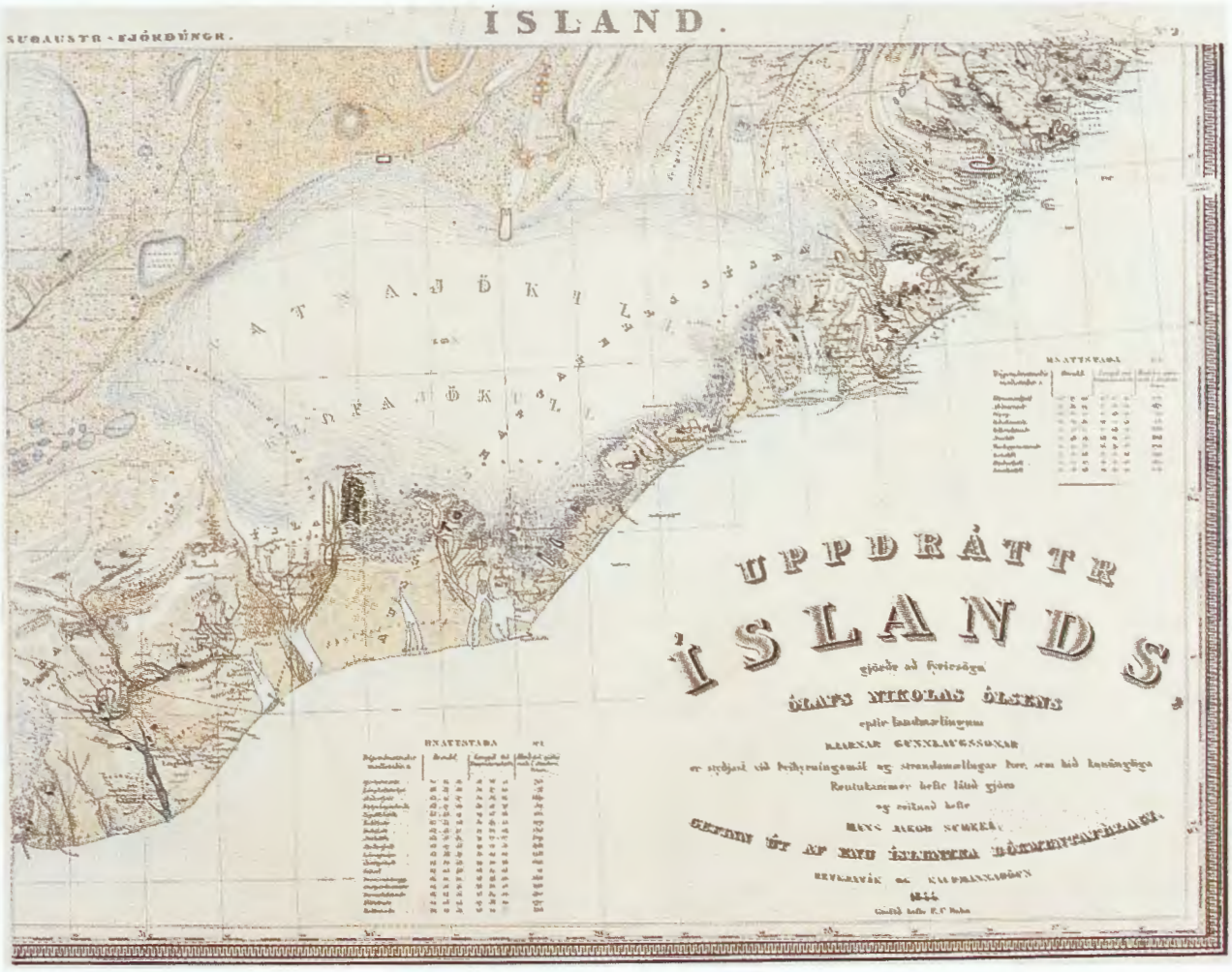
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* * * * *

Björn Gunnlaugsson
Mathematician and cartographer

Björn Gunnlaugsson, mathematician and cartographer, was born on September 25th, 1788 at the farm Tannstaðir in Hrútafjörður in Northern Iceland. He came from a rather exceptional family of farmers as his father was both well read as well as an innovator in farming and an inventor.

Very little is known about Björn's youth aside from what may be gleaned from comments in the parish visitation books about the reading abilities and


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og eptirsá hefir
MEYN ALEXR SCHMELCK.
GEFINN ÚT AF HINU ÍSLENZKA BÓKMENTAFÉLAGI.
REYKJAVÍK 1844.


ÍSLAND.
Nº 1
SUÐVESTR - FJÓRÐUNGR

general education of individual parishioners. It is apparent from these comments that Björn Gunnlaugsson was a competent reader early on and that he was a good student. It also became apparent early on that Björn was not cut out to be a farmer. From anecdotal stories that are told about his youth one can see that he did not have a mind for manual labor. Björn was therefore sent to study with a local parson, the de facto school system of that era, and subsequently matriculated in 1808.

Björn Gunnlaugsson spent the next nine years at home. During that time he applied for smaller livings several times but was turned down on all occasions. It is also known that in this period he made the acquaintance of the Danish lieutenants Frisach and Scheel who were at that time engaged in a coastal survey for new hydrographic charts of Iceland. Apparently they gave Björn some instruction in surveying and also provided him with some literature on the subject.

In 1817 Björn Gunnlaugsson sailed to Copenhagen in order to study mathematics at the University there. The year he arrived in Copenhagen he took part in the Mathematical competition at the University and received the gold medal for his efforts, a feat he repeated in 1820. Björn Gunnlaugsson studied in Copenhagen until 1821 when he graduated from the University. During the summers of 1820 and 1821 he served as an assistant to the astronomer professor H. C. Schumacher as a surveyor in Holstein which is now a part of Germany.

Björn Gunnlaugsson returned to Iceland in 1822 when he was appointed teacher of mathematics at the school at Bessastaðir. This school was at that time the highest institute of learning in Iceland. Björn taught mathematics as well as physics, zoology, botany and probably some geography. He taught at Bessastaðir until 1846 when the school moved to Reykjavík. He taught at the school there until 1862 when he retired. Björn died in Reykjavík on March 17th 1876.

Aside from teaching Björn Gunnlaugsson wrote a number of essays on mathematics, astronomy and geodesy. He was also a fair poet and published some religious verse. His main interests outside his work seem to have been the mapping of Iceland. In 1822 when he returned from Denmark the Danish Navy had just completed a new hydrographic survey of Icelandic waters. Part of that hydrographic survey was a coastal survey which improved maps of the coastal areas of Iceland immensely. It may be said that the shape of Iceland as we know it on maps today was basically established with that survey.

Early on Björn realized that improved knowledge of the country's interior was required. He also soon became aware that his faculties as a surveyor were needed quite often. At the time he returned to Iceland there was no surveying equipment available in the country. Björn therefore applied to the authorities that they provide the school at Bessastaðir with surveying equipment so that it would be within reach if the need arose. He received negative responses to his applications until 1829 when Governor Krieger took up his petition and wrote a letter to the ministry in Denmark with detailed plans for mapping such features as parish and county boundaries in Iceland. The plans include so much detail that it

is very probable that Björn had discussed the matter at some length with the governor. The ministry seems to have given no answer to this letter from the governor.

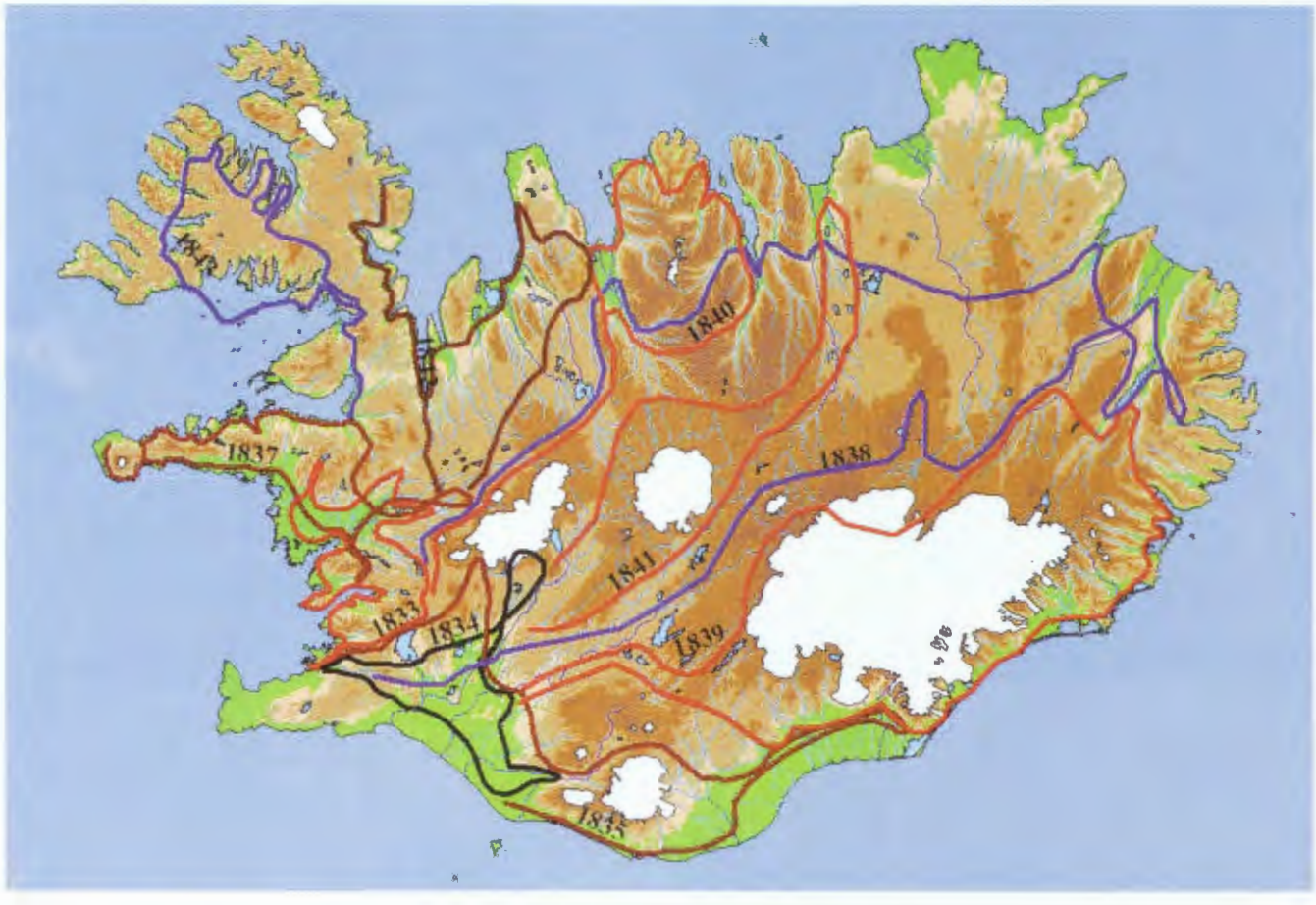
In 1831 the Icelandic Literary Society took the matter up, probably on Björn´s initiative. The Governor joined forces with the literary society in the effort and surveying equipment was sent to Iceland that year. The Icelandic Literary Society awarded Björn a sum of money to cover costs on a surveying expedition that year so he set about surveying the Reykjanes peninsula. The Society funded surveying expeditions the next two years but after that the Danish government took over the funding of the surveying work. When the maps were finished the Icelandic Literary Society took over and had the maps printed and published.

When Björn Gunnlaugsson started his project of mapping Iceland it was his intention to produce individual maps of each county. He followed this plan of action the first year but it soon became apparent to him that this task was too large for one man to accomplish. The leadership of the Literary Society also realized that production costs for the maps would run too high. Björn and the society therefore changed their plans and decided to produce four individual maps, each showing about a quarter of the country.

During the years 1831 to 1843 Björn spent a good part of the summer on his surveying expeditions. Usually he started out around the middle of July and returned home around the middle of September. During the twelve years that he spent on these expeditions he was away from home for about 700 days altogether. When he returned home in the fall it was usually just in time to take up his teaching responsibilities at the school at Bessastaðir and subsequently Reykjavík. Björn therefore used to process the information he had gathered during each summer in the following spring when school was out. This arrangement suited him as much of his travels took him into the central highlands and other mountainous areas where grazing for horses is hard to find before the middle of July.

In the summer of 1831 Björn surveyed the Reykjanes peninsula and in the next three years he focused on the southwestern part of the country. In 1835 he traveled through the southern highlands and along the south coast on his way back home. The next year he stayed at home compiling maps from materials collected in the previous years. In 1837 he traveled to Snæfellsnes in western Iceland and the next four years after that he traveled mostly in the eastern and northeastern part of the country. His last two surveying expeditions took him to the northwestern part of the country.

When Björn Gunnlaugsson set out on his surveying and mapping project his work was fairly detailed. He soon became aware that in order to accomplish the task at hand he had to work in a more schematic manner. He therefore placed emphasis on laying out a triangulation network so that features such as mountains and lakes could be positioned fairly accurately. He also did schematic landscape drawings to work from while compiling the maps. For many details, such as the position of roads, individual farms and parish and county boundaries he relied on both verbal and written de-



scriptions from people who were well acquainted with the respective areas.

When Björn was compiling the maps from his observations and other materials he first made a draft in pencil and then drew the final maps in ink. He then sent the final map to the Literary Society in Copenhagen. The society in turn handed the maps over to Captain O. N. Olsen who was a teacher at the military academy and later became the chief of the topographic staff of the Danish military. Olsen oversaw the final compilation of the map sheets that were eventually published. Olsen also supervised the engraving and printing of the maps.

O. N. Olsen was an experienced surveyor and mapmaker. After he had received the first map, of the Reykjanes peninsula, he wrote a commentary on the map. In his comments he made suggestions about many things that he thought could be improved in the maps. Björn gave careful note to his suggestions and made many improvements according to them. In the following years Björn and Olsen corresponded several times a year and it is apparent that Björn valued Olsen's opinion highly for he often asked him for suggestions and advice.

The work that Björn Gunnlaugsson completed on the surveying and mapping of Iceland is a singular feat. His maps are the first comprehensive maps of Iceland showing the coast in some detail as well as the landscape of the interior of the country. They are also the first maps of Iceland that only have Icelandic toponyms. That is probably in part due to the influence of the Icelandic Literary Society and its role in the publishing of the maps.

It can be safely said that the maps of Iceland by Björn Gunnlaugsson are among the greatest contributions in the fields of geography and natural history in Iceland.

ÁGÚST GUNNAR GYLFASON

Carta Marina, Olaus Magnus and Iceland

In doing research on foreigners' ideas of Iceland through the ages it is important to study old maps. To explain this a bit further, I'd like to take an example of a map of Iceland from the early 16th century, look at its connection with geographical writings from that period, and discuss what influence the map had on the development of ideas about Iceland and Icelanders in the 16th century and later. The map in question is 'Carta Marina', drawn up by the Swedish bishop, Olaus Magnus.

The map was issued in 1539 and accompanying it was a short legend, *Opera Breve*. There are now only two extant copies of the map. One is preserved in Uppsala, the other in Munich. The map, the pictures on the map, the accompanying legend, and later Olaus Magnus's book, *Description of the northern peoples* – which was printed in Rome in 1555 – probably had a stronger influence on the cartography and descriptions of Iceland than any other map in the 16th or 17th centuries.

Let us now look more closely at the part of Olaus Magnus's map that shows Iceland. If we compare the shape of the country on his map to the shape that we are familiar with on modern maps, we can clearly see that the difference is huge. The person who drew the map obviously didn't know much about the shape of the country. The situation with countries closer to the cultural centre of the world was quite different.

But is there anything on the map



Detail from Olaus Magnus: Carta Marina, 1539

that is familiar to us? Yes, we can see quite a few place names, such as the old bishops' residences, Hólar in the north of the country and Skálholt in the south, although they are far from being in the right place on the map. Other known place names are the monastery Helgafell and the volcano Hekla. Their placement on the map is also wrong. Then there are the places Hanafiord (Hafnarfjörður), Isafiord (Ísafjörður), Jökel (Jökull) and Vespen (Vestmannaeyjar). The placement of these places on the map is imprecise but not too inaccurate.

We can state that Olaus Magnus had a lot to learn about Iceland but his map was still a huge advance on what was previously known. This can be seen by comparing his map to two maps from the same period: Benedetto Bordone's map from 1528 and Ziegler's map from 1532. On Bordone's map there are no place names, while on Ziegler's map the shape of the country is even more distorted than Olaus Magnus's, but at least he knows that Hólar is in the north of Iceland and Skálholt in the south.

Let us now examine Olaus Magnus's map more closely. What is special about the map is that letters and pictures have been drawn on the map. The letters point to references in Olaus's legend, *Opera Breve*, while the pictures have a specific role: they are explanatory drawings rather than decorative illustrations.

Here we see a fundamental difference between some maps of this period and modern maps. In centuries past maps were also meant to have the broader function of explaining the community and social characteristics of a specific area, as seen by the cartographer and in keeping with prevailing ideas. This was often achieved by including pictures and texts on the maps. Often, however, this issue was solved by preparing a paper to accompany the map and using letters on the map to refer to passages in the accompanying paper, as is the case with Olaus Magnus's map.

We shall now look closer at what image Olaus draws up of social life in Iceland. We can say that the image has two main characteristics, one positive and the other negative.

Olaus claims, for example, that the land is so fertile that livestock must be driven out of the summer pastures so that they don´t die of gluttony. On the map this is shown by a picture of horned cows and the letter 'I' which refers to a passage in Olaus's legend.

Olaus also says that there are mountains of butter in the country. He claims that there is so much butter that it had to be kept in giant chests. On the map, a picture of barrels indicates this, together with the Latin word *Butyrum* while the letter 'H' refers to a passage in the legend.

Olaus also says that there is so much fish in the country that it must be piled up in large mounds; the letter 'G' refers to a passage in the legend. There was obviously plenty of food in Iceland and according to this, no one had to suffer shortages of any kind on this faraway island in the north.

On the map we can see three bollards close to the church in Skálholt. Below is written the Latin word *Saxa* which means a rock or stone. Without further explanations, it is impossible to determine what these bollards refer to – perhaps Icelanders' housing, high houses built of stone? That is not the case. The answer can be found in Olaus Magnus's legend under the letter 'A'.

There, he explains that they are stone boards used by the Icelanders to carve the deeds of their ancient heroes.

Olaus also says that there are musicians in the country who are so popular that people bring them birds and fish in return for playing. Therefore, it is clear from Olaus Magnus's description that Icelanders are a cultural nation where people know how to write, and there are even musicians.

As we can see on the map, Olaus Magnus depicts churches at the bishoprics of Skálholt and Hólar, where the churches are similar to churches elsewhere in Europe. Based on that, Icelanders had to be considered one of the civilised nations. However, Olaus also explains, under the letter 'O' in the legend, that in Iceland, church buildings are built from the bones of sea monsters. Was Christianity in Iceland perhaps a bit peculiar?

This part of Olaus's description of Iceland is reminiscent of Utopia. In Iceland there are Christian people with a rich social life. They have enough to eat, and in fact there is so much food that they have difficulty in storing it. Such descriptions of superabundance have long been common in discussions about faraway islands and various magical societies that have often been difficult to locate – for example, the country of the Hyperboreans which was somewhere in the far north.

However, Iceland wasn't just a heavenly island where everybody lived happily, wrote accounts of heroic deeds and had plenty to eat. Olaus Magnus also depicts quite a different picture.

The map shows, for example, three volcanoes, all marked with the letter 'A'. Underneath, the word 'Chaos' is written to indicate that endless abysses are found there. Olaus explains in the legend under the letter 'A' that these volcanoes are covered with snow on the top, as indicated by the word *Nix*, but a fire of brimstone burns at their base. He compares this phenomenon to Etna in Sicily and says that the souls of the condemned can be found there, where they are tortured according to God's sentence. In other words, hell itself could be found in Iceland, according to Olaus Magnus's description. As described in the text by the letter 'C' on the map, the fire was so intense it could burn water. According to Olaus, it was also common for people to see the spirits of dead people close to Hekla's abyss, which is hardly surprising since hell was said to be found there.

Concerning volcanoes, it was even said that huge rocks sped into the air from them like bullets, as can be read under the letter 'F' in the legend. And under the explanation marked 'E', Olaus claims that a great deal of noise can be heard when sea ice hits the country. He says that this noise comes from sinful souls being tortured in the ice, in the same way as souls are tortured in fire.

In the explanatory text under the letter 'B', Olaus Magnus mentions four springs with different characteristics. One is extremely hot, the second extremely cold, the third is poisoned and the fourth sweet; so here there is, in fact, something positive to be found.

In the north there is an image of a knight, and here Olaus explains that the knight is fighting the north wind which blows so forcibly that it can easily blow down a knight in full armour. Finally, Olaus claims that because of the extreme cold of the climate, the inhabitants

live underground, as shown on the map. The openings of the caves are called *Criptoporticus*. He also maintains, under the letter 'O', that sea ice is attached to the country for eight months each year and, therefore, there are lots of polar bears in Iceland.

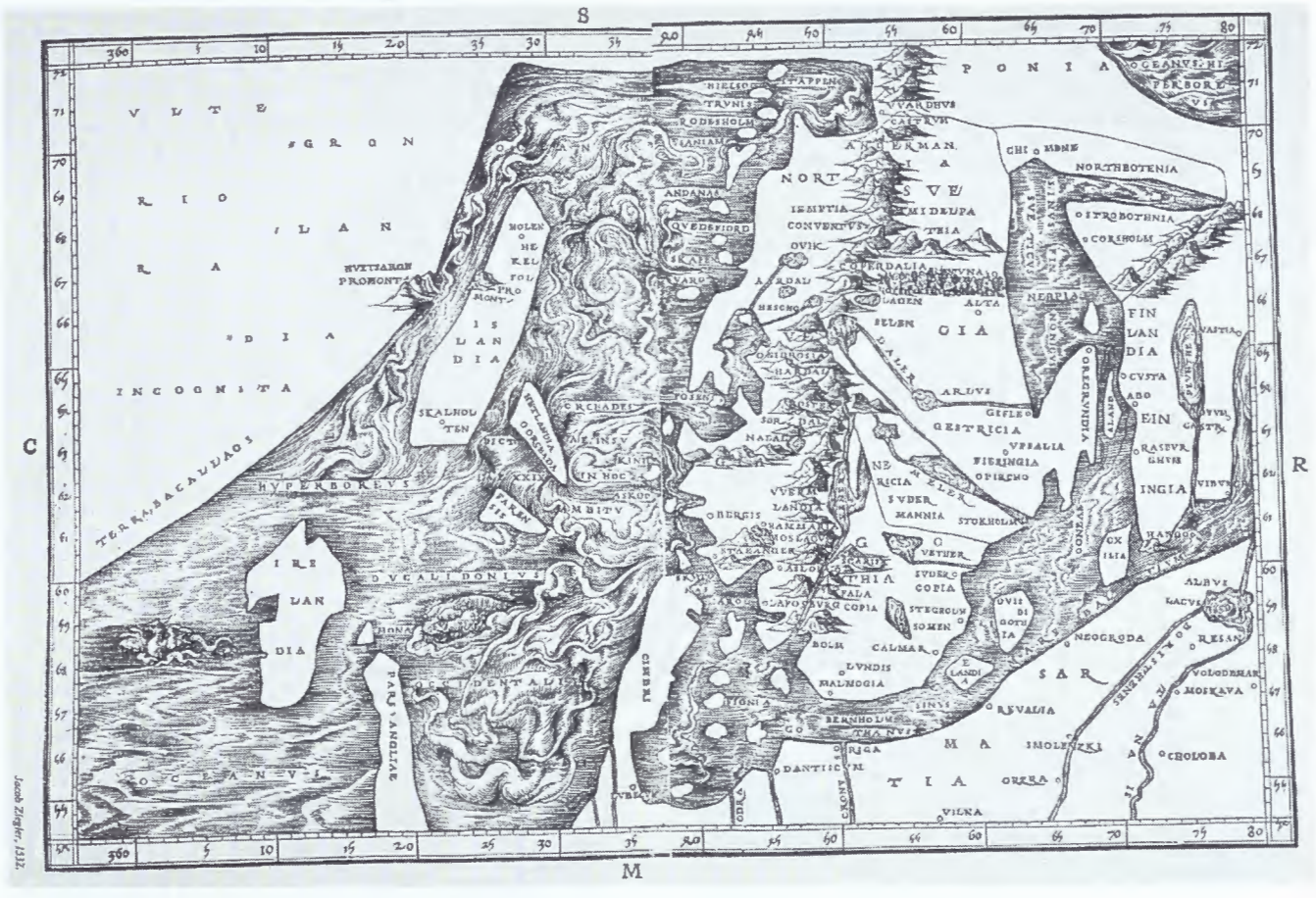
The situation just offshore is no better. Various sea monsters have been drawn, which were so huge that sea travellers thought they were islands, dropped anchors and started cooking.

The negative message about Iceland on the 'Carta Marina' can be expressed thus: hell is to be found in deep rifts in Iceland, where the souls of the condemned are tortured. They are also tortured in the ice by the seashore. The volcanoes constantly fire rocks like bullets, the north wind fiercely blows everything down, and people live underground like animals because of the intense cold.

The picture that Olaus draws of Iceland is, therefore, not homogeneous but paradoxical. On the one hand there is the ideal island, the Utopia; on the other hand there is the anti-Utopia. How can these opposites coexist? Of course this ambiguity is difficult to understand, but the reason why Olaus doesn't draw up a homogeneous image of the country, like some other geographers did, is that he used as source material old accounts of Iceland of various kinds, some positive, others negative. And, in fact, all together these accounts form a whole. Olaus draws up a picture of a magical island, where volcanoes erupt, strange wellsprings are all over the place, sea monsters roam off the coast, ghosts are frequent, the cold intense and the inhabitants live in dumps or caves. Nevertheless, the island is unusually fertile and rich in nature, and the inhabitants are great storytellers and music lovers. Obviously this doesn't add up, but it is nevertheless the essence of Olaus's description of Iceland. Upon closer examination, it can be seen that his account is very much in accordance with traditional descriptions of wondrous, faraway islands which have been known since antiquity; they were often adjusted to changed circumstances and re-emerged slightly different, but the nucleus was the same.

It is somewhat surprising that descriptions of this kind were considered valid in those times, since the country wasn't as isolated as many have wanted us to believe. In those times, Icelanders were known to go abroad to study, pilgrimages from Iceland were common, and trade with foreigners was quite extensive. However, the fact remains that very few knew anything about this faraway island or the northernmost areas of the world in general. It should also be noted that, long after Olaus Magnus's time, people still thought that an island as big as Ireland, Frisland, was to be found south of Iceland. Coverage about this island could be found late in the 17th century in respected geographical publications, in which the main activities on the island and the most important places were discussed.

As mentioned earlier, Olaus not only issued 'Carta Marina' but also the monumental epic, *Description of the Northern peoples* or *Historia de Gentibus Septentrionalibus*. It was not uncommon for cartographers also to write geographical texts that dealt with issues such as history, ethnology and livelihood. Jacob Ziegler and Sebastian Münster, in the first half of the 16th



Map of the Scandinavian countries by Jacob Ziegler, 1532.

century, exemplify this type of cartographer. Olaus Magnus's book came out 16 years after the map. It contains a more thorough description of the Nordic countries, including Iceland, than was known elsewhere at the time, and was used as a basic source on the area for centuries. *Historia de Gentibus Septentrionalibus* was translated into many languages and various versions were released.

Other cartographers and authors of geographical texts saw Olaus' work as a prototype, and the components that Olaus mentions can be seen on maps and in geographical writings for centuries afterwards, for example on the Bertelli map from 1566.

Sebastian Münster's *Cosmographia* was one of the best known geographical texts in Europe in the 16th and the 17th centuries and was published in at least 40 different versions in various languages. Its coverage of Iceland and Scandinavia is primarily based on Olaus Magnus's *Historia*. This definitely had great influence on the coverage of other people's works on these northernmost parts of Europe.

Let's take an example of a book by an English author, Peter Heylin, *Cosmographie in Four Books, Containing the Chorographie and Historie of the Whole World and All the Principal Kingdoms, Provinces, Seas and Isles Thereof*, published in 1666. The author says about Iceland that it is '...frozen continually for the space of 8 months, and

so vehemently chilled with Northern winds, that it yielded neither Corn nor Trees ... yet there is Grass in such great abundance, that the people are of that opinion that if they do not sometimes keep their cattle from feeding, they are in the danger to ... die with fullness.' And the author continues: 'there are three high Mountains, whose tops are always covered with Snow, and yet continually burning. The names of them are Hecle, Helge, and La-Croix ... stranger things are not spoken of Aetna, than of these three Mountains and here the superstitious people have the same opinion which they have in Sicil. That underneath must be hell and the habitation of the damned ...'

We know of similar descriptions from many other books on geography and history from that period, and in them we can also easily see many other items mentioned by Olaus Magnus, both in his map and book. Generally, it can be said that Olaus's work helped to establish the image of Iceland as a magical island, good or bad depending on the case. Its influence still exists.

SUMARLIÐI ÍSLEIFSSON

* * * * *

How to Regain Lost Respect— the Vector and the Collector

In the Broadway musical, *The Music Man*, the town of River City has its 'T' for trouble and there it happens to be 'P' for pool. I have been aware for some time that we collectors too have our own brand of 'T' for trouble but it isn't 'P' for pool, at least to the best of my knowledge it isn't. No, ours is more intangible though not at all any less destructive. I believe that American comedian, Rodney Dangerfield sums it up quite well when he says, 'I don't get no respect.' It's as if he were talking about us? Then again perhaps he is!

It hasn't always been that way. The collector of past ages was more than just a respected person; he was oftentimes a revered person; and he was almost always a gentleman; perhaps he even bore a title. Indeed, some of the great collections belonged to the knighted, and if we only look as far as the British Library we can visually inspect what once belonged to a regal person. Still, the lack of respect has been around for quite some time, though I have personally only been witness to it since March of 1975. It was then that *Mad* magazine's frequent contributor Dave Berg did a composite on the 'Lighter Side of Collecting.' How humiliating that was! Over the years this humiliation has rested uneasily though quietly in my subconscious, until recently.

Shortly after the start of the new millennium the comics page in our local newspaper ran a Peanuts strip wherein Charlie Brown ponders whether the little red-haired girl might have a bottle cap collection. If that were so then he could give her his bottle cap and she would be very thankful. Always the realist, Linus bursts Charlie Brown's love bubble by pointing out the absurdity of a bottle cap collection. For the average reader it's quite harmless, but for the aware collector this cute storyline has underlying tones of treachery. I believe it is possible to surmise that Schultz is ruthlessly poking

us collectors and in so doing stripping us of our self respect.

It wasn't long after that when my youngest daughter received her weekly installment of Disney's *Donald Duck* magazine. In the first story Donald is obsessed with collecting, collecting anything and everything! His nephews, Hewie, Dewie and Lewie are seriously troubled by their uncle's bizarre behavior, and decide to come to his rescue. Funny? Certainly, but at whose expense? Again an unwarranted attack on us collectors and another painful poke at our sensitive ribs! OUCH!!

Most recently and in conjunction with this international symposium the National Land Survey of Iceland opened an exhibition of old maps of Iceland that had once belonged to me. One of our daily newspapers ran a short article describing the opening ceremony of this cultural event. Did this article appear in the section of the newspaper devoted to arts and culture? No, it appeared in the back of the newspaper in a section that roughly translates as being or existence, and therein between brief exposés of the latest adventures of Victoria and Mel C, my collection was cornered by two of the Spice Girls! And I now wonder whether I might just be known in some small way as Mark C, collecting spice.

How then do we regain our lost respect? I think I can safely say that on the whole very few of us should anticipate a title, and why would that be the answer for today's collector anyway? In the first place, it's rather archaic! A step back! A traditionalist approach! Shouldn't modern society demand an innovative solution? A true sign of the times? A new-age approach? Collecting is a widespread activity now and has gathered momentum in the last century. Studies have revealed that one in three Americans collect something. I should like to think that Americans have not yet cornered this market, others elsewhere probably collect just as much.

I propose that the answer lies in developing a general theory of collecting. Why is that so important? Allow me to answer that by using an example. Before the general theory of economics was presented and economic man was determined to be rational, the business of business was rather chaotic and the property owner no more than a cut-throat capitalist. If you don't believe me then read some Dickens. Along comes David Ricardo with a general theory of economics and this very same economic man has now become respectable. Ok, so if a theory is the answer why hasn't it been developed? Actually there





have been several attempts at it; however, these attempts only seen to explain, analyze or dissect specific behavioral incidents; they do not describe behavior in general nor do they predict it. A general theory must be able to do both. One of the better theories of collecting that I am aware of views collecting as a playful activity that transcends the scale of consumption. One of the older and more laughable theories belongs to Freud who sees collecting as an act where men direct their surplus libido onto inanimate objects.

Martin Kelner thinks of collecting in terms of stuff. He says that life is all about acquiring stuff, then acquiring more stuff, maybe changing your stuff round a little, then acquiring even more stuff, then getting a bigger place because there's no room for all your stuff, getting rid of some stuff, then getting a smaller place because you haven't got as much stuff. Then you die.

Before I introduce the basis for my general theory of collecting I would like to take a better look at the collector. What kind of a person is the collector? If economic man is rational and legal man is reasonable then the list of traits collecting man resembles might look something like this:

— on the prowl he is reticent, redoubting and revocable.

— during mood swings he can be anything from regular to radical to revengeful.

— at auctions he may appear runaway and reckless.

— on the verge of burn out he might be rumbling, rambling and even ransomed. Near the end he becomes rustic.

There is, however, one word I believe describes the true nature of the collector: he is a reckoning man. With that in mind it's time to introduce the basis for a general theory of collecting that we as collectors will approve of and it will enable us to regain our lost respect.

In my view mathematics must be employed to form a general theory of collecting that is truly able to describe and predict behavior. Such an approach will permit scientific testing and analysis, and with it the formation of axioms,



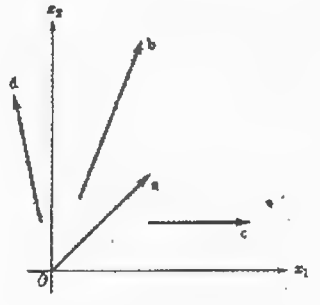






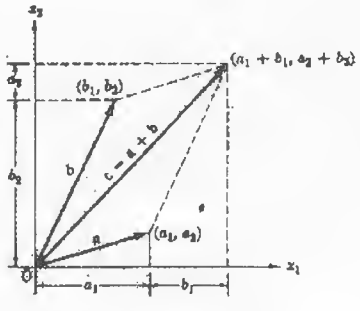
Above: (left) Ãgúst Gunnar Gylfason, and (right) Sumarliði Ísleifsson.
Left: Ólafur Pálmason, Librarian of the Central Bank, welcoming us to The Culture House.
Below: Waiting to begin at the Culture House.

theorems and corollaries. The branch of mathematics that best suits a theory of collecting is the vector. The vector and the collector is more than just a rhyme, it also has good reason! The vector is a directed line segment. It has been used in physics to represent a quantity such as force that has both magnitude and direction. Vectors are usually symbolized by arrows. If we collectors look at our collections we understand this well, our collections, too, have magnitude and direction. Furthermore, the laws of addition, subtraction and multiplication that apply to vector analysis also apply to collecting, and to collections. Several examples come to mind, but it is neither the intent nor the purpose of this brief talk to list them here. I am sure many wiser men, among them collectors, are more capable of that task.



VECTORS

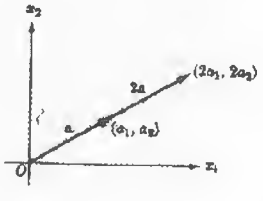
The collector is a respectable person engaged in a respected pastime, despite the ignorance of others. With a general theory of collecting in hand the collector can hold his head high again. As a titled person without the formal ceremony he is the baron of bargains; the count of cleverness; the lord of luck; the duke of determination; and the prince of perseverance.



VECTOR ADDITION

The vector and the collector? Oh, those arrows of outrageous fortune!

MARK COHAGEN



DOUBLING OF VECTOR MAGNITUDE





At the symposium in the National & University Library: (left) Symposium organiser Emilia Sigmarsdóttir and (right) Ãslaug Agnarsdóttir, head of the Circulation Department, who introduced the speakers.

Berghaus and Johnston: Pioneers of the Thematic Atlas

At one time last year I toyed with writing an article on the thematic maps of Heinrich Berghaus of Germany, and how they were enlarged and disseminated by Alexander Keith Johnston through his monumental *Physical Atlas* of 1848. Fortunately I didn't, as in a recent article in the *IMCoS Journal*[1] David Smith has provided much more information about the Johnstons' family firm than I had to hand. Also I came across a lengthy and detailed scholarly assessment of Berghaus' work by Dr Gerhard Englemann which pre-empted much of what I might have said.[2]

However, Berghaus and Johnston, initially working in collaboration, pioneered some of the most fascinating examples of maps in the service of science. Apart from isolated earlier exceptions, these are the first comprehensive sets of thematic maps seeking to expound the physical (or as we would now say, environmental) aspects of the natural world. For both Berghaus and Johnston their mentor was the great scientist Alexander von Humboldt.

Johnston's *Physical Atlas* is dedicated to Baron Alexander von Humboldt 'at whose suggestion this work was originally undertaken and on whose profound and varied researches in every department of natural science a large portion of the contents is founded'. The full title to Johnston's *Atlas* acknowledges in large letters that it is based on the *Physikalischer Atlas* of Professor H. Berghaus. A third German, Dr Gustav Kombst, renowned for his ethnographic map of Europe is also mentioned.

Heinrich Berghaus, a professor of geography at Potsdam, conceived the idea of using maps to display factual scientific phenomena by means of colour, shading, iso-lines, pictures, and linked comparative graphs and diagrams. His first *Physikalischer Atlas* was published from Gotha in 1838 with a limited number of maps. Four sheets were included in Johnston's *National Atlas* of 1843.

From 1839 onwards Berghaus was joined at Potsdam by a young student, August Heinrich Petermann.[3] Through their joint efforts Berghaus' enlarged *Physikalische Atlas* was published in two volumes by J. Perthes in Gotha between 1845 and 1848 with 75 map sheets, some containing two or even three main maps, or with a variety of map inserts. The phrase '90 Karten' usually gilt-embossed on the cover of each volume refers to the total number of plates including graphical or statistical tables.

The contents are divided into eight sections:

1. Metereology and Climatology
2. Hydrology and Hydrography
3. Physical Geography and Geology
4. Terrestrial Magnetism
5. Botany
6. Zoology
7. Anthropology
8. Ethnography

Following pages: World map showing the races of mankind, from *Dr. Heinrich Berghaus' Physikalischer Atlas*, Vol II, Gotha, 1848.


Amerikanische Rasse
Geographische
der
MENSCHEN
Übersicht
NAHRUNGSWEISE
PHYSI
Malayische Rasse Australier Negritos
NÖRDL. GRÖNLAND
NORD-AMERIKA
GROSSER ATLANTISCHER OCEAN
SÜD-AMERIKA
OCEAN
Menschen-Rassen.
Gang der Geburten in den Jahreszeiten.
Gang der Sterbefälle in den Jahreszeiten.
Geburten u. Todesfälle in den Monaten.

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YSIK des MENSCHEN

Kaukasische Rasse

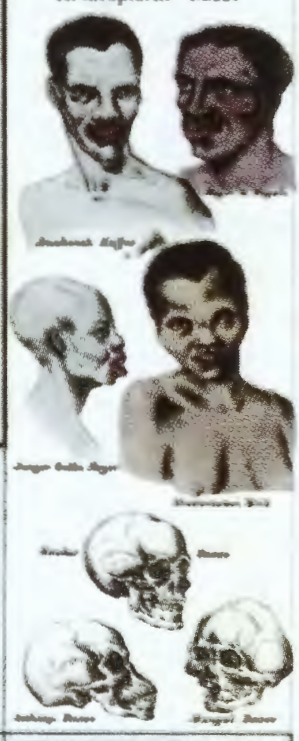




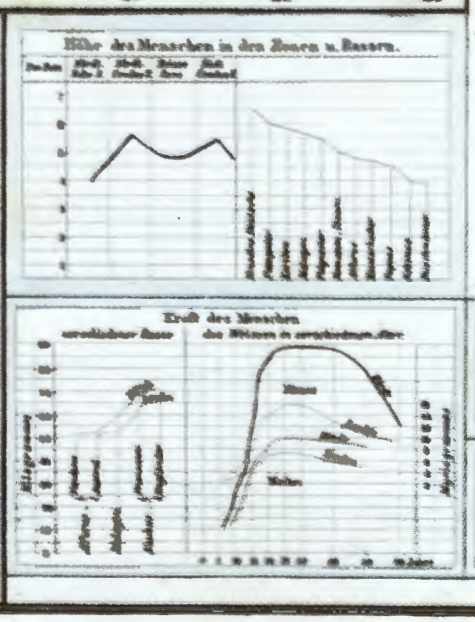
Mongolische Rasse



Aethiopische Rasse









The sections were published individually and sometimes may be bought as separate *Abtheilung* or parts within an elegantly decorative printed cover. Of then 75 hand-tinted maps, 26 are world maps and 9 are maps of parts of the Americas.

The maps are full of fascinating details, expounded with characteristic Teutonic precision and thoroughness. A typical example might be map no. 2 in section VII devoted to Anthropology. The main title *Planiglob zur übersicht der Geographischen Verbreitung der Vornehmsten Krankheiten denen der Mensch auf der Gantzen Erde Ausgesetzt ist* explains that it shows the incidence of disease throughout the world. Three inset maps depict the prevalence of dysentery and fevers in north America and the Antilles, general health conditions in southern Africa and the spread of cholera across the world. There are also five graphical diagrams and a long column of explanatory text. Sometimes Berghaus's maps are over-detailed, with yet further facts to be gleaned from associated text printed at the end of each volume.

Alexander Keith Johnston's consolidated atlas, *The Physical Atlas of Natural Phenomena* was first published in 1848 with 29 maps divided into four sections: Geology, Hydrology, Meteorology, and Phytology [Botany] and Zoology. Johnston's maps improve on those of Berghaus, principally because they are substantially larger in size (490 x 580 mm compared to the smaller plate size of around 300 x 400 mm for the Gotha publications). There are fewer maps in Johnston's atlas but their superior size and chromolithographic colouring (one maps has, at the foot 'Engraved and Printed in Colours') give them visual advantages. In the Zoological section the many border vignettes are of outstanding quality, and Johnston's authoritative text is both better organised and is placed adjacent to each map.

A few years later Johnston's atlas was enlarged to include a full section on Ethnography, Religion and Health. The 1856 edition of the Physical Atlas consists of 35 maps, plus 7 further smaller maps in the text. There was noticeably less acknowledgement given to Professor Berghaus than hitherto, perhaps as a result of the dispute between Johnston and Berghaus' pupil Augustus Petermann recounted by David Smith.

The subsequent influence of both map-makers was widespread. In Germany, further atlases by Berghaus, Petermann, Stieler and others proliferated over the next 50 years. There were many translations into other languages. Johnston's *Physical Atlas* which, as reprinted in 1856, weighs over 20 lb or 9 kg, was perhaps less successful commercially. However smaller versions were later produced by Johnston's son (also called Alexander Keith) for use in schools, or more generally as the *Half Crown Atlas of Physical Geography*, followed closely by the *Shilling Atlas* ... and then in 1869 by the *Sixpenny Atlas*... .

A.K. Johnston senior had a world-wide reputation as a geographer, cartographer, and as the principal of his publishing concern. Each of the 35 thematic maps in his *Physical Atlas* of 1856 is accompanied by a substantial essay. Johnston contributed 15 of these essays under his own name and linked his name with others which were by acknowledged specialists in their field. The writings pro-

vide a summation of mid-century Victorian knowledge, embodying the over-confident expectation that all the workings of the physical world would soon be completely revealed.

NOTES

1. David Smith, 'The Business of W & A K Johnston 1826-1901', in *IMCoS Journal* 82, Autumn 2000, pp 9-19.
2. Gerhard Engelmann, 'Der Physikalische Atlas des Heinrich Berghaus und Alexander Keith Johnstons Physical Atlas', in *Petermanns Geographicschen Mitteilungen*, 1964, 1/2. Gotha, DDR, pp 133-49. The same author has also produced a substantial biography, *Heinrich Berghaus der Kartograph von Potsdam*, Leipzig, 1977.
3. Oswald Dreyer-Eimbcke, 'Two Cartographers who made Mapping History in Gotha: Heinrich Berghaus and August Petermann', in *IMCoS Journal* 70, Autumn 1997, pp 19-27.

Further reading: Arthur H. Robinson, *Early Thematic Maps in the History of Cartography*, Chicago and London, 1982. This is the acknowledged work on thematic maps generally, and contains many references to both Berghaus and Johnston.

RODNEY SHIRLEY

* * * * *

Letter to the Editor

Madam, I write in connection with the article by David Smith on 'The business of 'W. & A.K. Johnston' 1826–1901' in the Autumn 2000 Issue (no. 82) of the *IMCoS Journal*. The author writes that the acquisition of W.H. Lizars' business by the firm of W. & A.K.Johnston 'occurred in 1862' (main text, p.15) and 'c.1862' (table, p.19). Here I offer one small piece of the information and material on the Lizars family, that I have been researching and collecting for some 25 years. The following lithographed circular, headed as from '3, St James Square, Edinburgh. 10th. May 1859', is transcribed as near as possible (with word breaks) from an original in the Manuscripts Division of the National Library of Scotland (Johnston Papers, Acc. 5811(1), p.125):

'We the Trustees & Executors of the late Wm. Home Lizars beg to acquaint his friends and employers that we have disposed of the Machinery & Stock in the Engraving, Lithographic and Copperplate printing departments with the good-will of the business to Messrs. W & A.K. Johnston the well known Engravers & Printers to the Queen, 4 St. Andrew Square, who have entered into possession of the premises here, and to whose custody we have transferred the plates belonging to you. We have done this in the earnest hope that you may be pleased to continue to the Messrs. Johnston the much valued patron-age so long enjoyed by their predecessor.

'From their great experience, and their acknowledged skill in every depart-ment of Art, we have the fullest confidence that the business will in future be conducted in such a manner as will give entire satisfaction to those who may favour them with their orders, [signed:] Henrietta Lizars/Wm Jardine Bart/G H Marshall Trustees'

Needless to mention perhaps, the table on page 18 erroneously has 'David' Lizars I as the founder; whereas it was, of course, Daniel. William Home Lizars was born, not in 1728, but in 1788. His brother, Daniel Lizars [II] moved to St David Street in 1826.

As David Smith is writing particularly on the business history of W. & A.K. Johnston it is pertinent to record that both William (in June 1834) and Alexander Keith (in January 1853) were enrolled as Members of the Merchant Company of Edinburgh. It may be worth noting, too, that A.K. delivered an invited Lecture entitled 'The geographical distribution of material wealth' at a Conversazione of the Company on Friday 11 April 1862; both his elder and younger brothers, Sir William and Thomas Brumby (to be enrolled June 1862) were present also. A.K.'s 'Physical & commercial chart of the world', that was the reduction of 'the large Physico-Commercial Map, now in

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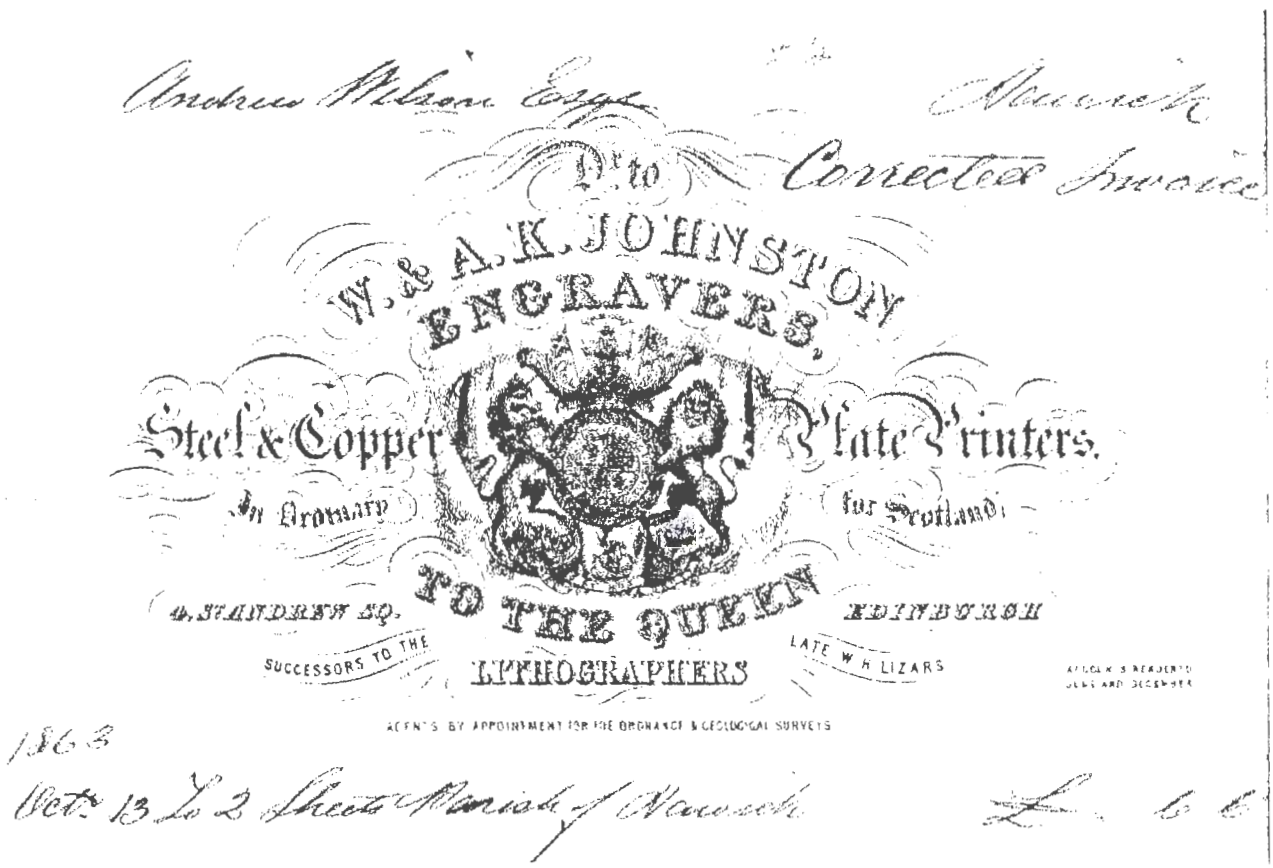
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the Industrial Museum of Scotland', accompanied the privately-printed version of the Lecture.

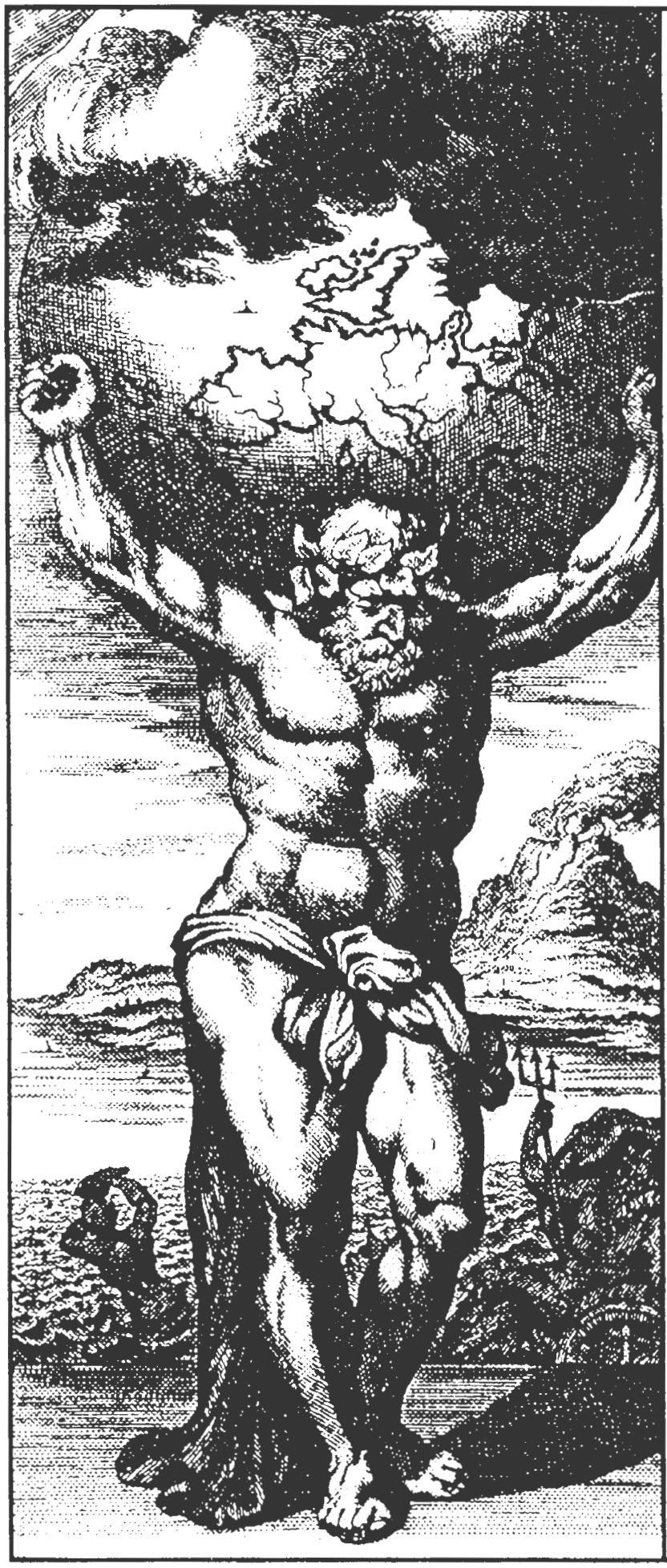
The author notes the award attained for their physical globe at the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London. In response to a similar mention, by Helen Wallis, of this globe in IMCoS Journal of Autumn 1987, Issue no 27, a 'Letter to the Editor' from me was published on p.21 of Issue no 32 of Spring 1988. This adverted that the possible 'unicum' of 'Johnston's geological & physical globe showing the structure of the Earth, currents of the ocean, and lines if equal temperature. Constructed by A.K. Johnston, F.R.G.S.' is to be seen at the Royal Geographical Society; indeed, it is illustrated in its now restored glory – on p.9 of the Society's Annual Report 1998 (1999).

I probably ought to be flattered that the author has, for the third time, drawn on my own research and resultant article published in *Imago Mundi* vol. 35 (1983) that he acknowledges only in his Notes 3 and 4. One might have wished for similar acknowledgement for the information he provides – courtesy of my *Imago Mundi* article – on, for example, the printed circular relating to the Johnston/Saunders/Stanford series of 'Stanford's Library Maps' of 1858–82 on page 13; and on the otherwise elsewhere unpublished (and unusual) personal details of Archibald and of Thomas Ruddiman Johnston on pages 16 and 19. Neither in his book *Victorian maps of the British Isles* (London: Batsford, 1985), nor in his article 'George Washington Bacon, 1862–c.1900' in *The Map Collector*, Winter 1993, Issue no. 65, does the author cite this same source for eight and for four identifiable facts or quotes respectively.

Francis Herbert
Curator of Maps
Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
ex-Research Editor, *The Map Collector*



An invoice from W. & A.K. Johnston for two Ordnance Survey sheets of Hawick. Note the self-styled 'Successors to the late W.H. Lizars', and the date of the invoice: Oct. 13. 1863. (Courtesy Francis Herbert.)



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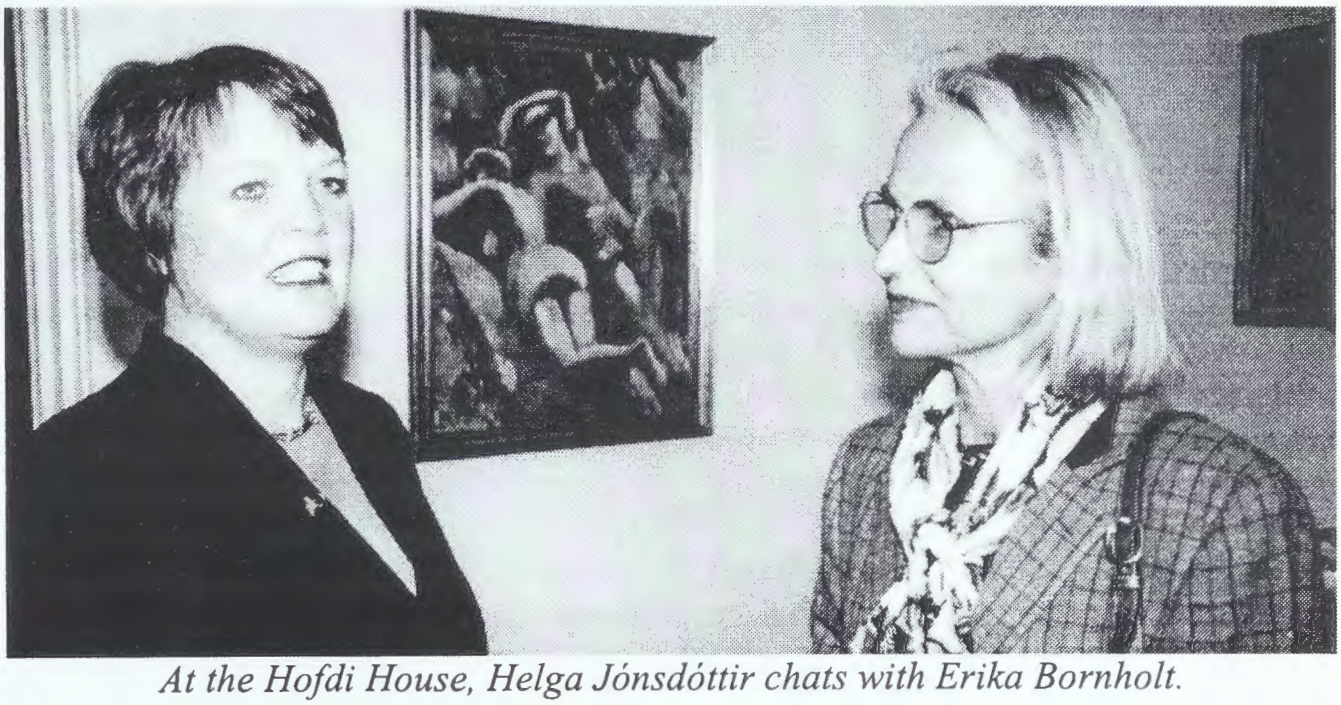
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IMCoS in Iceland

The 15th of September 2000 marked the beginning of the International Map Collectors' Symposium in Reykjavik, Iceland. Fifty-eight people who had registered for the meeting attended, and their spouse and friends accompanied many of them. They represented seventeen countries. Many of the participants arrived a few days early, acclimatized themselves to the beautiful but wet city of Reykjavik, and fanned out over the Icelandic countryside.

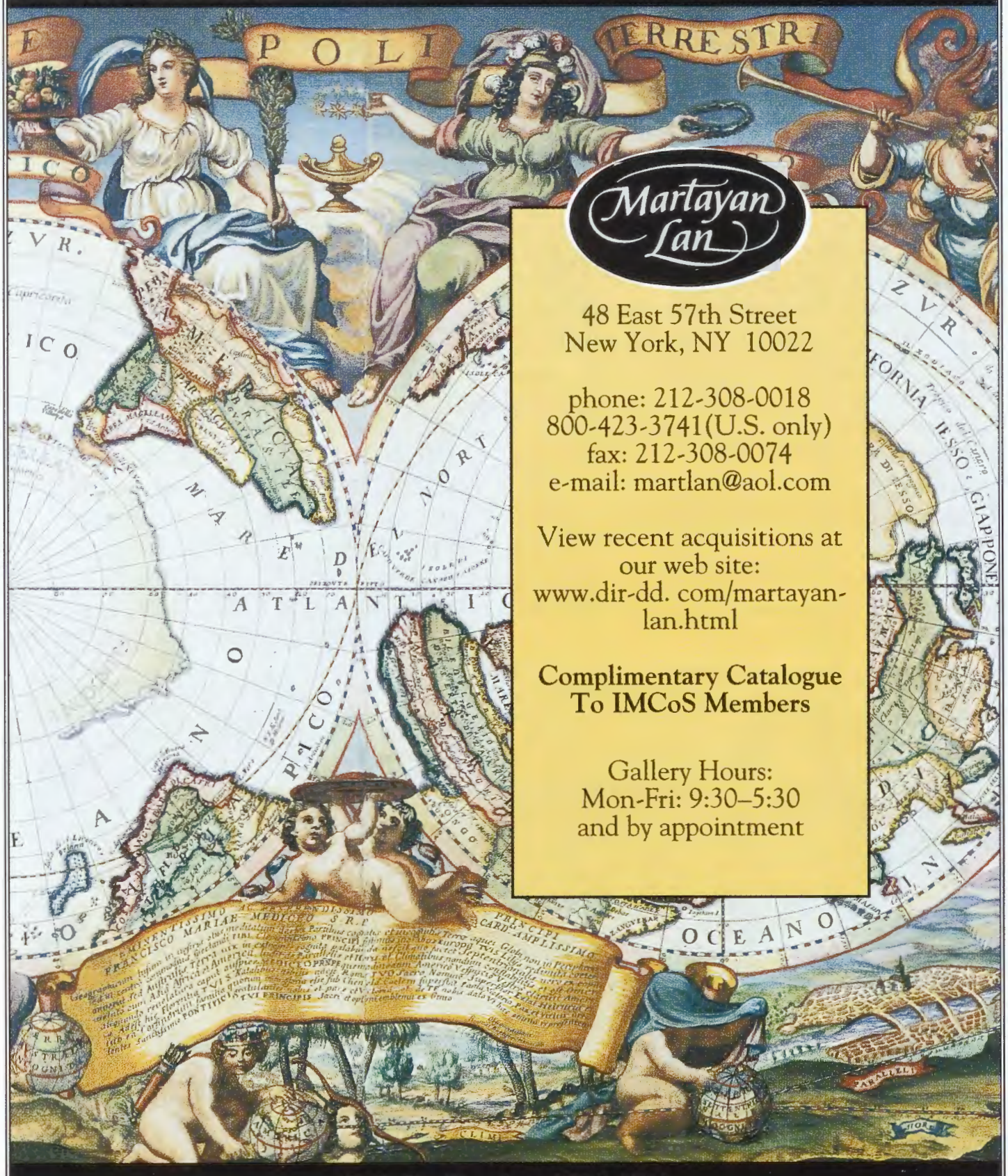
The meeting proper began on the morning of Friday, September 15. As if to forecast a successful symposium, the rain stopped — well there was a bit of drizzle from time to time. Members spent the first part of the morning registering, meeting old friends, and making new ones. All were treated to a brief tour of the National and University Library of Iceland, a tour that included the open stacks and reading rooms, as well as special collections of manuscripts and rare books. Many of the collections had been donated to the library. One of these is reputed to contain all the books printed in Iceland up to the mid 1940s. We spent the rest of the morning on a bus tour of the city and its environs. On returning to the National Library, the group received an overview of the program to follow.

For the first of several such occasions, the group was treated to refreshments, before leaving for Arkanes, home of the National Land Survey of Iceland. Arkanes is a port and industrial town 45 km north of Reykjavik. Two buses transported the group. The drive passes mount Asja, a 909 meter peak claimed by the people of Reykjavik as their mountain, crosses under Hval fjord through a tunnel of 6.5 km, and finally traverses beautiful countryside first settled by the Irish. After a brief introductory greeting by the Director of the Land Survey, Magnus Gudmuðsson, we viewed an excellent exhibition of Icelandic maps put together over some twenty years by IMCoS member Mark Cohagen and presented by him to the Land Survey for their permanent retention. The exhibition featured most of the important maps devoted to Iceland from Benedetto Bordone's 'Islandia' of 1528, the first map devoted solely to the island up to the mid 19th century. Mark is a permanent



At the Hofdi House, Helga Jónsdóttir chats with Erika Bornholt.

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G.G. De Rossi, c. 1700-1710







Top left: Rodney Shirley presenting the IMCoS plaque to Emilia Sigmarsdottir. Right: Mark Cohagen presenting her prize to Valerie Scott. Middle: Bob Karrow inviting members to Chicago and Milwaukee next year. Bottom: IMCoS members in hot water at Blue Lagoon (photo: Gordon Roberts)



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resident in Iceland, and he was involved in organizing the Symposium. Just as we began the afternoon, we continued it with more refreshments.

The final event of the first day of the meeting was a reception hosted by the City Council of Reykjavik at the Höfði House, perhaps most famous as the meeting place in 1986 for the summit between President Reagan and Premier Gorbachev, where the first steps to ending the cold war took place. The Deputy Mayor of Reykjavik, Helga Jónsdóttir, greeted the group with an amusing and informative informal talk covering the history of Höfði House from its ghosts to anecdotes about the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. In a continuing pattern, we enjoyed more wine and canapes, before making our respective ways back to our hotels.

We were formally welcomed to the National Library, on the morning of the second day of the Symposium, by Symposium hostess, Mrs. Áslaug Agnarsdóttir, and the National Librarian, Mr. Einar Sigurðsson. IMCoS Chairwoman, Jenny Harvey in turn replied on our behalf, stressing everyone's sorrow that IMCoS President, Oswald Dreyer-Eimbcke, who had been instrumental in arranging for the meeting to be held in Iceland, was unable to attend because of illness. Then there followed three presentations.

Firstly, Jökull Sævarsson demonstrated the National Library's collection of antique maps digitized for the Internet. One can view them at www.bok.hi.is/kort, where one may search for individual maps in a variety of ways, display, and enlarge them for closer inspection. The collection was begun in 1880 and recently was greatly enlarged by the purchase of the collection of Kjarten Gunnarsson, formerly IMCoS' Icelandic representative.

Secondly, Ágúst Gunnar Gylfasson discussed the life and work of Bjõrn Gunnlaugsson (1788-1876), mathematician and cartographer. While employed as a teacher in Iceland, Gunnlaugsson spent his summers from 1831 to 1843 conducting surveys of the interior of Iceland. These were solo endeavors. Gunnlaugsson was accompanied by at most one person who handled the Icelandic ponies. Using Danish Coastal surveys and augmented by his own surveys, as well as oral descriptions by local inhabitants, he compiled the most accurate maps of the interior of Iceland up to that time.

Thirdly, Mark Cohagen spoke on 'How to regain the respect collectors once had.' He noted how the 19th century collector was looked at as a person of great knowledge, and was accorded great respect. However, unfortunately, that has changed. Now the collector is looked at merely as one who accumulates 'things' — the more 'things' the better. To rectify this loss of respect, Mark proposes (a bit tongue in cheek) the adoption of a mathematical model for collecting based on a system of two-dimensional vectors. One dimension might be the specific interest of the collector — perhaps maps of Iceland, while a second dimension might be available funds. These two vectors define a point in a two-dimensional collecting space. As one shifts one's interest and as more funds become available, the point in collecting space is redefined. With such an erudite model how can the collector not regain the lost respect?

After a short break came perhaps the high point of any IMCoS meeting to date. There have been stamps issued for IMCoS. There have been first day covers. We have been on live television. However, never has the president of the host country addressed us, until now. Mr Ólafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland, accompanied by his fiancée, addressed the group and formally opened the map exhibition of the National Library. It was an outstanding presentation

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full of substance, and a great honour for our organization. Rodney Shirley thanked the president on behalf of IMCoS, again expressing our regrets at the absence of Oswald Dreyer-Eimbcke. We then viewed the exhibition of maps, another outstanding collection of Icelandic maps, and yet again repaired to the meeting room for refreshments. In the afternoon, the group visited the Culture House of Reykjavik as guests of the Central Bank of Iceland. The Culture House was the former home of the National Library and is a beautiful building.

Olaf Palmason, Curator of Collections, greeted us for the Central Bank. The Bank maintains throughout Reykjavik three permanent exhibits and a temporary one. One of the permanent exhibits is devoted to maps of Iceland appearing in travel books and the temporary one to separate maps of Iceland. Both are housed in the Culture House. Before viewing the exhibitions, Sumarliði Ísleifsson, author of the book, *Iceland the Unknown Land*, discussed another book, Olaus Magnus' *Historia de gentibus septentrionalibus* (A Description of the Northern Peoples), published in 1555. This book had the same purpose as Ísleifsson's book, that is to acquaint the people of mainstream Europe to the unknown Northern People. Mr Ísleifsson extracted many of the annotations on Magnus's map of 1539, the 'Carta marina', and used them to demonstrate how they influenced the perception of Iceland at the time and for following centuries. In addition to viewing the exhibitions of maps, we saw a fascinating one on Viking exploration. As had become our custom, we were once again treated to refreshments, this time the time-honored combination of doughnuts and port wine.

Saturday night was the gala banquet at the Saga Hotel. The menu included a gourmet salad with salmon comfit, crab and lobster, prime of lamb served with butterfried vegetables and a tower of potatoes, topped off with chocolates and coffee. After dinner, Kristín Sigurðardottir entertained us by singing operatic arias.

On Sunday morning there was an optional trip to the Blue Lagoon, an artificial lake of warm, mineral rich water, the product of a geothermal power plant 40 km south of Reykjavik. With strong winds and very cool temperatures, the warm water was a real delight (after one braved, wet from a shower, the open air between the bathhouse and the lake). In the afternoon we were taken to the openair museum at Árbær to see the exhibition 'The History of Reykjavik – From Farmstead to City'. Here many old houses had been preserved, some with their original furnishings and contents. After that it was back to the Library for one final Icelandic specialty—freshly made pancakes.

So we concluded another highly successful IMCoS Symposium, took a fond farewell from our many friends, looking forward to seeing them and others in Chicago in 2001.

BOB HIGHBARGER

Cartographer Competition

At the exhibition of maps, Mark Cohagen had included a competition to see who could fit names to twenty mapmakers whose pictures were posted up.They were:

Gerhard Mercator, Jodocus Hondius, Sebastian Münster, Olaus Magnus, Herman Moll, Philippe Vandermaelen, Nicolas Sanson, Gudbrandur Thorlaksson, Thordur Thorlaksson, Bjorn Gudlaugsson, Petrus Bertius, Willem Jansz. Blaeu, Vincenzo Coronelli, Pierre Duval, Nicolas de Fer, Johann B. Homann, Guillaume de l'Isle, Giovanni A. Magini, Abraham Ortelius, Aaron Arrowsmith.

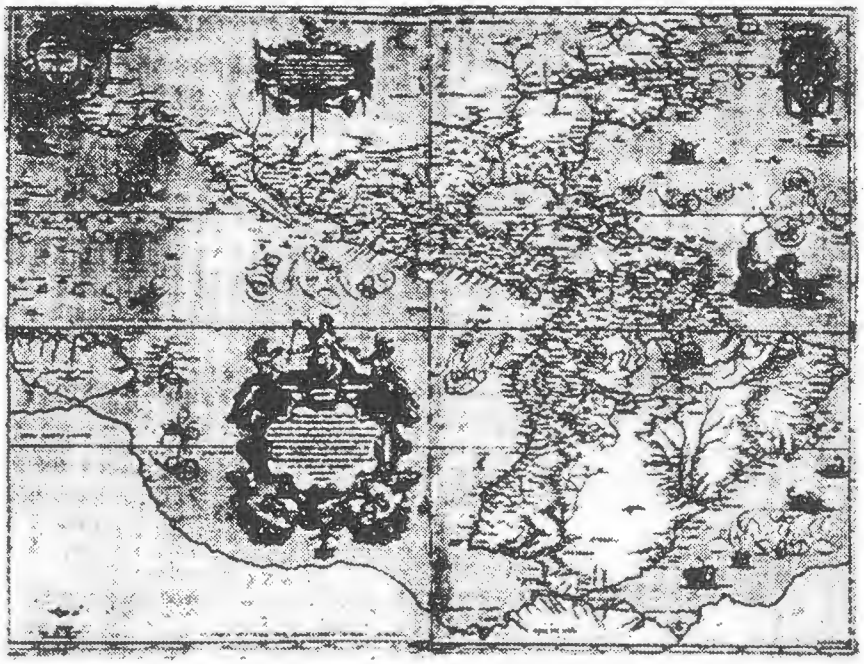
Valerie Scott and Rodney Shirley both had 11 correct, and being a gentleman Rodney allowed Valerie to receive the prize, a copy of *Island frammandi Land* (Iceland, the Unknown Land), by Sumarlidi Isleifsson.

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International News & Events

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Tel: (01) 312-255-3659
Fax: (01) 312-255-3502
E-mail: smithctr@newberry.org

2002 21st International Symposium
The Netherlands

2003 22nd International Symposium
Nicosia, Cyprus

2004 23rd International Symposium
Italy, in Venice and Florence

2005 25th International Symposium
USA, in Denver, Colorado

* * * * *

USA 2001
With this issue of the Journal comes a registration form to express your interest in attending the 20th International Symposium in Chicago and Milwaukee next Autumn. Further details will be sent to those responding to this initial form, and will also appear in future Journals.

Walter Ristow Prize
Applications are invited for this prize for 2001 offered by the Washington Map Society. It is open to full or part-time upper-level undergraduate, graduate or first-year postdoctoral students attending accredited colleges or universities. *Contact:* WMS Ristow Prize, John Docktor, 150 S.Strathcona Drive, York PA 17403-3833, USA.

Int. Conference on the History or Cartography, Madrid, 1-6 July, 2001
Contact: Biblioteca Nacional de España, Paseo de Recoltos 20, 28071 Madrid.

Miami Map Fair, 2-4 Feb, 2001
Contact: Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler St, Miami, FL 33130-1504

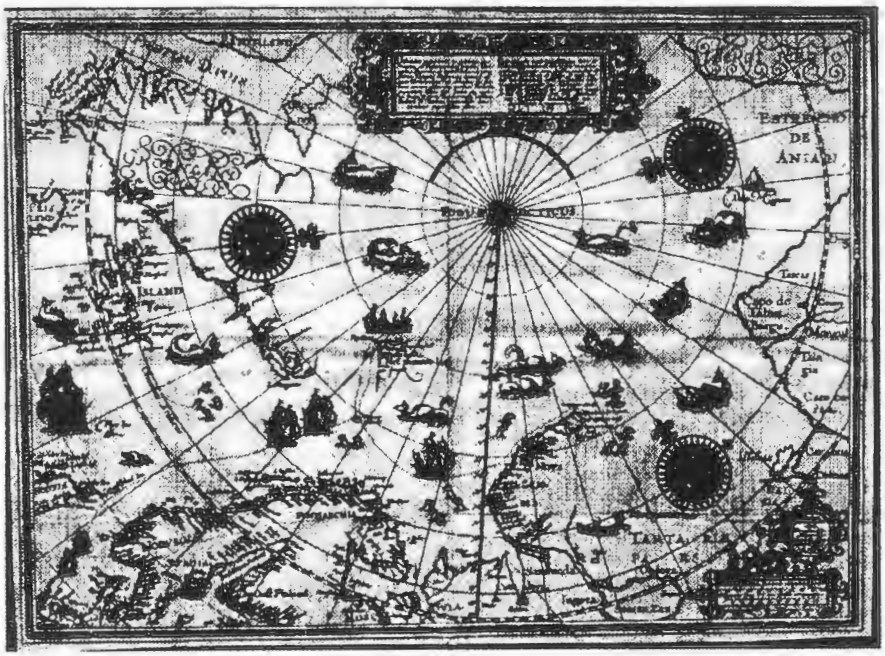
Exhibition in Maine, till Jan 11, 2001
'Charting Neptune's Realm: From classical mythology to satellite imagery' at The Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, 314 Forest Ave, P.O.Box 9301, Portland ME 04104-9301.

Brussels Map Circle
Conference on 9 Dec, at Collège St. Michel, Bld. Saint Michael, B-1040 Brussels.

Warburg Lectures, London
On Dec 7, Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 8, Mar 22, Apr 26, May 24. *Contact:* Tony Campbell, Map Library, British Library, Tel: +44 (0) 20 7412 7525.

Copies of *IMCoS 1980–2000: A History* are available from the Editor at £15.00 (this includes postage worldwide). When new members join, they receive the *Index* and the *Bulletins*. The *History* is only available on payment.

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IMCoS in UK — 2001

Friday 5 January

One-day seminar at the University of Greenwich: 'Military Mapping in the 20th Century'. Sessions on the First and Second World Wars, the Cold War, Small Wars, Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. IMCoS will be represented at this event, but members should register direct. A charge of £15 incudes refreshments, lunch and tour of the historic campus.

Contact: Professor Peter Doyle, Dept of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Greenwich, Pembroke, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4TB. Tel: 020 8331 9832. E-mail: dp01@greenwich.ac.uk

Wednesday 14 February

London Collectors' Meeting

This annual event is a little later than usual this year. *Venue:* The Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1. Bring along something from your collection which interests you, a new find, a rare specimen. A small charge to cover to the room hire and refreshments will be made at the door. Please inform Caroline Batchelor (tel: 01372 843 425) if you plan to come.

Saturday 28 April

Visit to Holkham Hall, Norfolk, to see the John Innys collection of estate maps, atlases, maps and prints of Holkham Hall

Until the late Dr Helen Wallis and Mary Alice Lowenthal started work studying parts of the collection, it was virtually unknown. It includes an 11-volume set of Blaeu and an Ortelius atlas, but the jewel in the crown is the 113-volume *A General System of Cosmography, or Elements of Astronomy and Geography, Illustrated by Maps, Plans and Views Collected from the most eminent Authors Ancient and Modern by John Innys.* Innys (1695–1778) was a London bookseller and collector who described his collection as 'the amusement of my leisure hours for above 30 years'. It was acquired by the Earl of Leicester in the 1750s and now forms part of the present Earl's amazing library of 10,000 volumes. *Contact:* Valerie Scott, IMCoS Secretariat, P.O. Box 412, Aylesbury, Bucks HP18 0XE.

June Weekend

Slide Show, Lunch and Browse, at the Royal Overseas League

Saturday 2 June

Slide show by Jeffery John Speed, descendant of John Speed, and a keen map collector. Jeffery will talk about his recently published book *Tudor Townscapes, the Town Plans from John Speed's Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine – 1610.*

Lunch, followed by presentation of the IMCoS-Helen Wallis Award for 2001.

Library Browse. An opportunity to see some of the treasures of the IMCoS library.

Sunday 3 June

IMCoS Map Fair, at The Commonwealth & Events Centre, Kensington High Street.

Recommendations for the **IMCoS-Helen Wallis Award** for 2001 may be sent in writing to Valerie Scott, The Nook, 74 High St, Waddesdon, Bucks HP18 0JL. See earlier Winter issues for details.

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Writings about Maps

'War has always been a matter of maps,' wrote Simon Jenkins in *The Times* of 13 May 1999 about the accidental bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade by American planes. The very latest in computerised technology was as nothing when an out-of-date street map was the input source.

There is a long and inglorious history of inadequate or missing maps in crucial times of war. Samuel Pepys, seventeenth century diarist and naval reformer, struggled ceaselessly to improve its charts and navigation for that very reason. He was sensitive to his own deficiencies, having recorded on 20th June 1662:

> Drew up the agreement between the King and Sir John Winter about the Forrest of Deane; and having done it, he come himself ... and we read it and both liked it well. That done, I turned to the Forrest of Deane, in Speede's Mapps. and there he showed me how it lies; and the Sea-bayley, with the great charge of carrying it to Lydny, and many other things worth my knowing; and I do perceive that I am very short in my business by not knowing many times the geographical part of my business.

In September 1683, Pepys was en route to Tangier. Arthur Bryant, in his *Samuel Pepys—The Saviour of the Navy*, describes how:

> ... another of the ills of the Navy had begun to vex him. During the voyage he had several times examined the flagship's chart and followed as best he could the course she was taking. After a conversation with one of the engineers ... he had persuaded the Admiral to order an account of the ship's course to he kept by all who could make a reckoning. (On 9th September) Dartmouth at his request called for these reckonings and found every one of them different. Worse followd. On the 10th the fleet sighted the Burlings. Yet at that moment not one of the twelve reckonings made the Gratton within twenty-five leagues of them. For some time the navigators even contended that the Portuguese coast beyond was a fog bank. All this led to much examining of charts, which were found to contain a host of inaccuracies. In some the Burlings were shown just south of the North Cape, in others to the east of it. Rather than admit their mistakes, masters preferred to conceal such discrepancies which were thus left permanently uncorrected. It was natural, of course, but symptomatic of the slovenly, haphazard way in which everything in the Service was now done.

Pepys' continued concerns were warranted. In 1688 it was shown that even the home waters of the Thames Estuary were not charted with sufficient accuracy. On 1st November, William of Orange set out from Helvoetsluys to invade England, but the English fleet failed even to engage his ships, let alone prevent the invasion. For three days it was unable, albeit with unfavourable winds, to get clear of the Galloper Sand off the mouth of the Thames. Recalling the charge that once had seen him imprisoned in the Tower of London, Pepys later wrote:

> What a pother was heretofore made about the pretended discovery of our sands, etc., to strangers! While it now appears how little use we were able to make of our supposed only knowledge of them ourselves at so critical a juncture as that was when my Lord Dartmouth could not tell how to get his fleet out of them, though there by his own choice and after all the cautions given him...

At least there was the excuse that really accurate charts did not exist. In more modern times failure to provide those that did have only too often caused unnecessary problems for those directly engaged in warfare or even contributed to disastrous defeats. At our Istanbul Symposium last year, Janet Condon from the Australian War Memorial, speaking about Ottoman maps used in the 1915 Gallipoli campaign, mentioned that, in contrast to their quality and their ready availability to the Turkish forces, the Australian and New Zealand troops were so ill provided for that some of-

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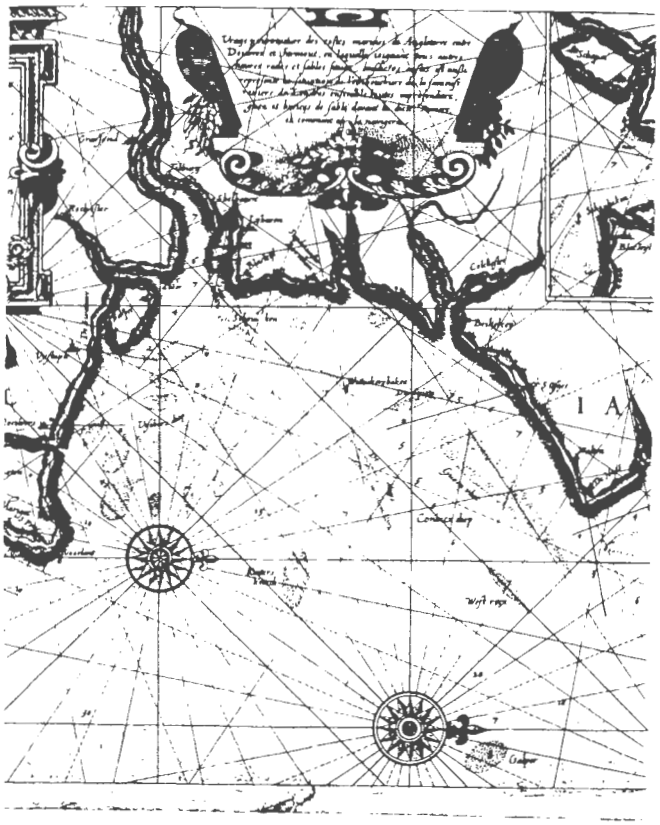


Chart of the Thames Estuary by Willem Blaeu, from Het Licht der Zee-Vaert *in the 1620 Jansson edition. The Galloper Sand appears bottom right as 'Galper'.*

ficers were reliant on Baedeker guides purchased en route in Egypt.

The 'bloody shambles' that was the so-called defence of Singapore against the Japanese in 1942, was not only a total failure of both strategy and tactics, but was also grossly negligent as to detail, and that included the provision of maps. Ian Skidmore in his true story *Escape from the Rising Sun*, returns repeatedly to this issue. During the Japanese onslaught across the Johore Straits, a group led by Major Rowley-Coinwy ran into a straggling troop of field guns.

> Rowley exploded: 'Do you realise you are blocking the whole bloody road?' he said. The young Gunner captain was equally short: 'Can't help that. I was told to rendezvous here and here I am.' 'Here?' said Rowley. 'In the middle of the road. Are you sure you've got the right place?' The youngster was icily polite. 'And how can I be sure of that? I haven't got a map. Nobody's got a map.' His voice shook. 'Would you believe it. Malaya Command have run out of maps. I'm trying to site a troop of field artillery in a strange country and they can't give me a bloody map. What a way to run a war.'

Later, Rowley had to cross a minefield and, asking for a map was told:

> There is only one ... and that's on the wall in the Brigadier's office . You can't take it but I don't see why you shouldn't copy it.'

Subsequently, when attempting a desperate but ultimately successful escape by boat to Ceylon, via Sumatra, Rowley and his companions had to make do at various stages with a map from the back of a Gem Dictionary and one that he found pinned to the wall of a child's former nursery. That was a page from a school atlas and, while it covered the right area, the scale was rather small for their purpose as it showed both Rangoon and Sydney on the same sheet.

Blunders and making do were not the sole prerogative of the British however. The *National Geographic* for May 1995 recounts how:

> Droning above the South Pacific, the Army Air Forces B-17 pilot knew only one thing for certain: he was lost. Worse still, sitting behind him was four-star brass — Admiral Chester W Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, headed for embattled Guadacanal. Nimitz's aide, Lt Hal Lamar, was asleep among mailbags in the back when an officer roused him, shouting, 'You still got that Geographic map you showed Inc yesterday?' Lamar ... recalls, 'I'd brought it along because I thought it'd be interesting. Interesting it was. We were flying over an enemy island! It took an hour for the pilot to get oriented. Later, Nimitz told General Hap Arnold of the Army Air Forces his pilots should get over-ocean training.He said, 'There are no railroad tracks to follow out here.'

Samuel Pepys would have had a strong sense of dejà vue!

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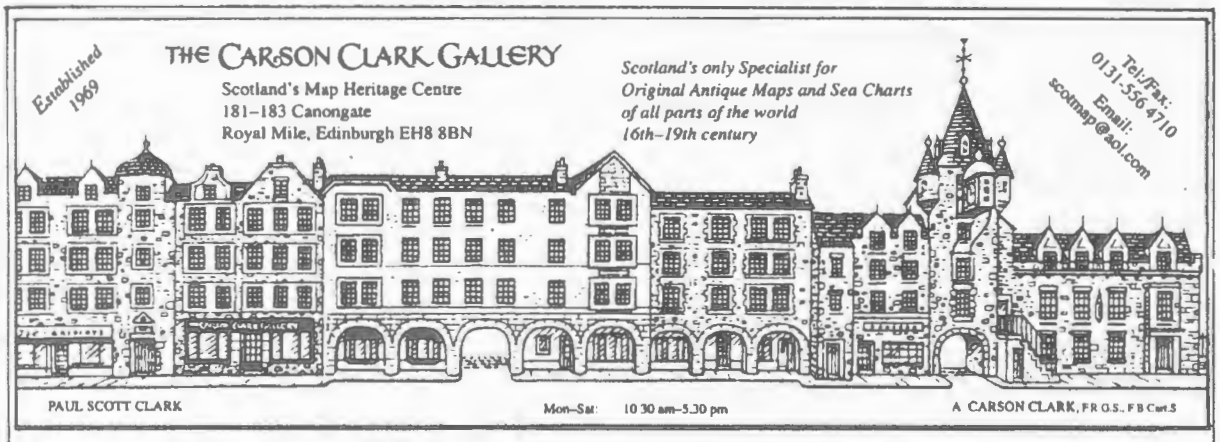
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Book Reviews

The Piri Reis Map of 1513, by Gregory C. McIntosh, with a Foreword by Norman J.W.Thrower; The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, USA, 2000; ISBN 0-8203-2157-5; 230 pages of approx. $40.

This book is a superb scholarly work on the surviving section of the world map delineated in 1513 by Ottoman admiral Piri Reis on vellum, which is preserved in the Topkapi museum in Istanbul. This surviving occidental section covers the Iberian peninsula, part of West Africa, the Atlantic ocean and the eastern shores and islands of the newly discovered America. The other section, showing Asia and the rest of Europe and Africa, is unfortunately lost. The participants of the 18th International IMCoS symposium in Istanbul (10-12 Oct.99) enjoyed the privilege of hearing a well-presented talk on this map by the author himself and viewing the original map at the Topkapi museum the next day.

The book contains 11 chapters, 34 drawings of map details and 8 tables. The bibliography of some 390 sources, consulted by the author, is quite impressive. The author is both a professional engineer and a longtime member of the American Society for the History of Discoveries. The life of Piri Reis is reviewed briefly in chapter 1. Although it is mentioned that Muhiddin Piri Reis (Reis means admiral or captain) was born probably in Gallipoli (Gelibolu), it is not mentioned that a monument with a bronze bust of Piri Reis as its main feature and a small museum have been built in his memory in his home town of Gallipoli. However, his world map – the surviving section – has been described and illustrated in admirable detail. A suggested reconstruction of the whole of Piri Reis world map can be found on p.12 (figure 3).

The author's investigation begins by stating the belief of some that the Piri Reis map represents lands and islands discovered on pre-Columbian voyages and is, therefore, the oldest map of the Americas, and the claim that this map includes a copy of a 1498 map (not extant) by Christopher Columbus. All of these issues and many more have been examined. A detailed investigation of the delineation, place names, inscriptions, and layout of the map has also been conducted. In discussing the details of the Piri Reis map, comparisons are made to the European portolan charts of the time, and in doing so the close relationship of this map with more typical maps of the period has been established.

The importance of the Portuguese cartographic influence, affirmed by Piri Reis himself, is an important finding in this book. The author concludes that the Piri Reis world map exhibits many features in common with other surviving potolan charts. It may be closer to the one that Columbus made of his Caribbean discoveries (1498, not extant) than any other extant charts, even that of Columbus's brother Bartholomeo with Alessandro Zorzi (1503). Therefore, calling the Piri Reis map an Islamic and non-European chart (see the foreword) is not appropriate. This chart has none of

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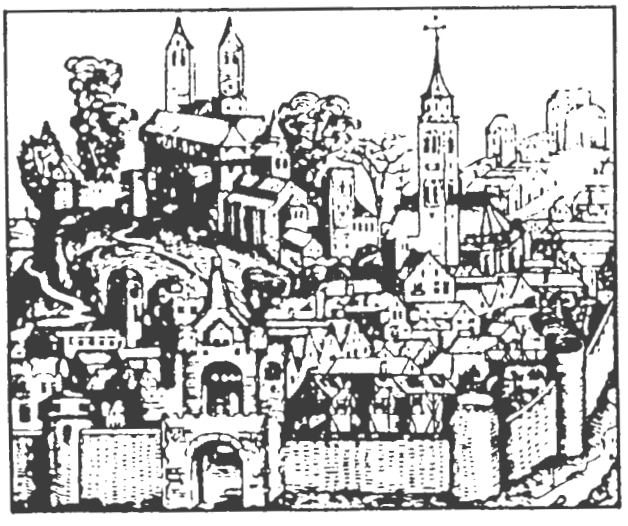
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the features of traditional cartography of the Islamic societies which flourished between the 10th and the 15th centuries. Indeed, it has all the Christian-European criteria of mapmaking of the period, except the religion of the mapmaker. Piri Reis came from the European part of the Ottoman Empire, and may, therefore, be recognized as a European-Muslim.

In short, this book is a well researched and well-written work with an academic emphasis and is of particular benefit to the scholars of early maps of America.

CYRUS ALA'I

Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandicia VI: Dutch folio-size single-sheet maps with decorative borders 1604–60, by Günter Schilder, in cooperation with Klaus Stopp. Canaletto/Repro-Holland, Alphen aan den Rijn, 2000. ISBN 90 6469 749 3. Pp 452; 800 black-and-white illustrations; text in Dutch and English. Separate portfolio of 95 facsimile maps. Dfl. 395 (US$175 or £120 approx).

The rise of Amsterdam can certainly be traced to the forced blocking of the Scheldt and hence Antwerp in 1585. What cannot be so easily explained is how there was fostered in Amsterdam such a remarkable outpouring of creative energy, mercantile activity and artistic talent that led to the Dutch 'Golden Age' of accomplishment spanning the seventeenth century. Günter Schilder has shown, in previous works, how cartography became both an art and a science for important Amsterdam fam-



Right and overleaf: Details from black-and-white maps of Germany.

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ilies of map-makers under the well-known names of Blaeu, Visscher, Van den Keere, Hondius, Janssonius and others.

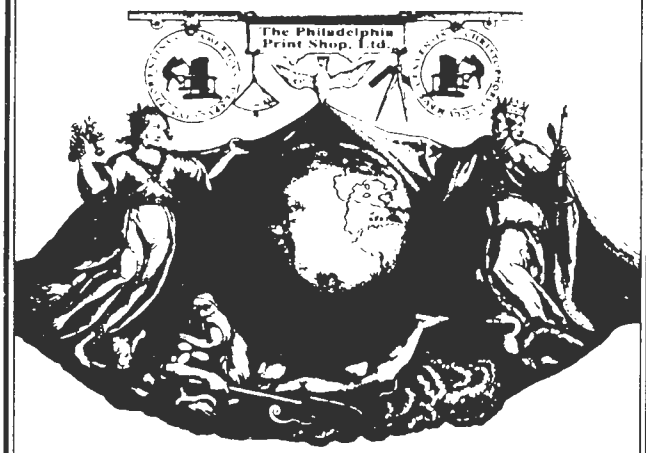
In this volume, number VI in the series *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica,* the emphasis is on single-sheet Dutch maps with decorative borders. Such maps have been (and are still) esteemed as part of the collector's repertoire for their costumed figures, heraldry and their miniature topographical insets. They may be loosely known as 'cartes à figures'. However, as Schilder solidly demonstrates, their composition is more than just pretty elegance.



The body of this work analyses 107 different copperplates of single-sheet maps over the period 1604—1660, often issued in distinctly separate states. These maps include those of the world, the four continents, and most of the major nations or regions of Europe. The central maps impart the latest geographical information available at the time; they are rarely derivative or out-of-date. The outer borders, in each case, are splendidly decorative. Through their attention to both topographic and artistic detail, Dutch map-makers and publishers established a reputation which secured cartographic supremacy for a century and beyond.

Günter Schilder has worked in conjunction with Kraus Stopp—a distinguished collector and historian—to provide comprehensive comments on the decorative borders for each of the maps listed. They have elucidated the artistic and other sources for these borders through illustrations in the text (not all captioned) showing prints, portraits, titlepages and enlarged sections from the maps. The very large number of illustrations—totalling 800—and the portfolio of 95 facsimiles, adds immensely to our understanding of the Dutch cartographic and artistic scene, especially in Amsterdam in the early 17th century.

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Perhaps the most exuberant and complex of the maps described are the two different world maps by Claes Janszoon Visscher; one dated 1614 and one from c.1617; both made up of two sheets. As Schilder says, these are among the finest masterpieces of decorative Dutch cartography: richly decorated, superbly engraved and pleasingly balanced.

I have not mentioned what, to many readers, will be the most readable and (in a broader sense) most rewarding pages of the work. These comprise the first three chapters which discuss the Amsterdam metropolis and its growth as an international centre for map-making; the nature of map production, engraving, printing and distribution there; and, thirdly, how the development of decorative borders on maps came about. Finally. there is an appendix describing and illustrating 24 imitative decorative maps, nearly half of them produced in London, between the 1630s and 1670.

Research is already well advanced on four further volumes within the series *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica.* Volume VII will be devoted to Cornelis Claesz; volume VIII to the maps and charts of Jodocus Hondius senior, Pieter van den Keere and Hessel Gerritsz; volume IX to Joan Blaeu, and volume X to the Allard and Danckerts families.

This sixth volume under review continues to make rare cartographic material of the Netherlands available to map collectors, historians, art researchers and others. Professor Dr Günter Schilder, who in 1999 was awarded the IMCoS-Helen Wallis Award, again fully deserves our respect and admiration for his *magnum opus.*

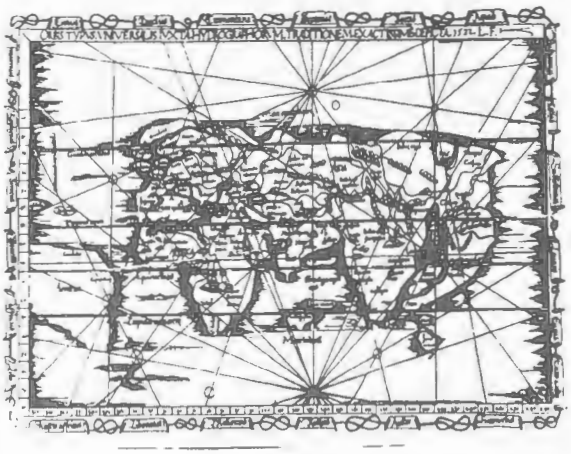
RODNEY SHIRLEY

Bilbao: Estanpak-Estampas-Pictures 1575–1860. Euskal Arkeologia, Etnografico eta Kondaira Museoa, Bilbao. 2000. ISBN 84 922S55 6 7. Large softback. Pp 169. Limited edition of 1000. Unpriced.

This book was published in conjunction with an exhibition held earlier this year at the Basque Museum in Bilbao to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the city. It was instigated on the premise that 'Nothing is today understood without a picture', and that challenge was met by mounting an exhibition of 53 pictures of how Bilbao and its outlying districts looked over the four centuries to the advent of photography. The introduction acknowledges that the information furnished by the pictures was not always very varied, due to the stereotypes that pervaded the production of topographical city views during the period, although the 1575 Braun & Hogenberg and some of the locally produced exhibits may be exempted from this self-criticism. It goes on to claim that, 'Even so, the collection is interesting, curious, and evocative. A fine testimony to a Bilbao that with great ditficuly, we can recognize as our own, for within it we see the seed, the features that even today define its essence and mark its identity.' This is as succinct a description of a successful exhibition of its kind as one could wish for and, to judge from all the excellent illustrations, this one should have been a success.

Each picture is illustrated on a separate pagc, in colour, at around A5 size, with captions and text on the opposing page in Basque, Spanish and well-written English, as also is the fore-

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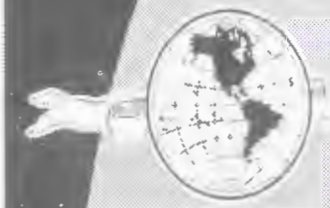
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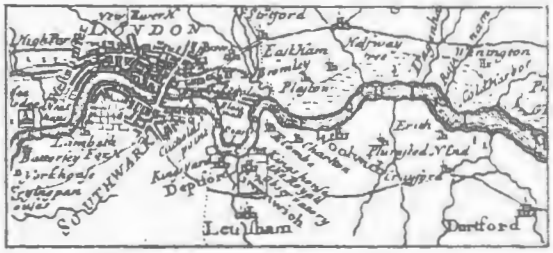
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word, introduction, a good introductory study, and an illustrated section of views in other collections. Although the strictly map content of the book is very limited, it is still interesting for map enthusiasts to browse through. For anyone making a visit to Bilbao or with a particular interest in the region it should be seen. As the foreword points out, Bilbao has been subject to many adverse pressures, but now enjoys a more positive and dynamic image abroad, not least as the home of the new Guggenheim Museum. This book can but add a little more to that positive image.

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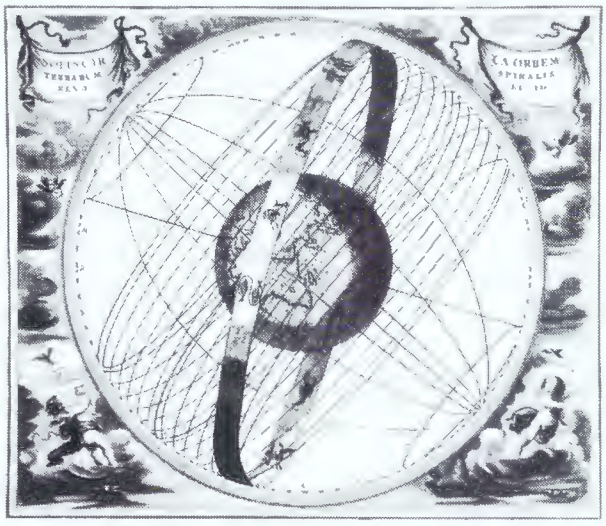
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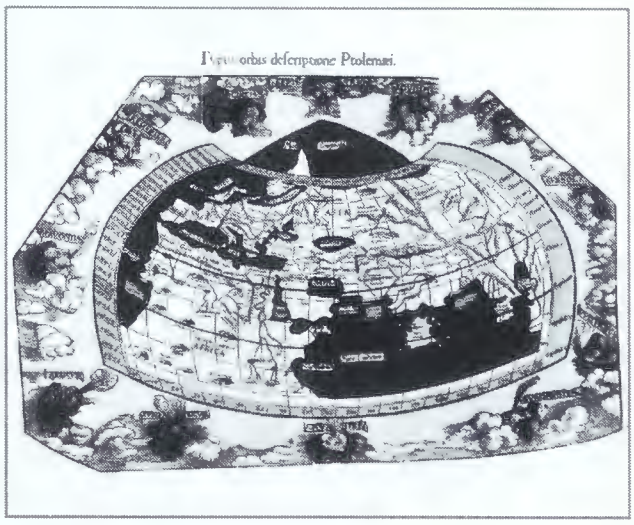
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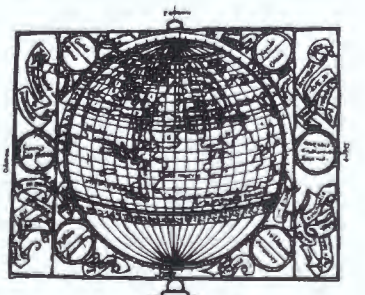


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